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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

LOCAL



San Vicente Elementary School gets its \$8,000 cash prize from McDonald's Saipan. ➤ PAGE 5

WORLD



A magnitude-7.1 earthquake hits central Chile Sunday night. ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE



Lenny Kravitz goes back to acting as avant garde stylist Cinna in "The Hunger Games." ➤ PAGE 21

Saipan casino petition to be launched tomorrow. PAGE 2
Applying for a CW visa? Here's how. PAGE 7

Mafnas placed on admin leave



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has placed embattled Department of Public Safety Commissioner Ray Mafnas on administrative leave effective yesterday and until further notice.

» **OAG probes allegations**
» **House committee to discuss petition by DPS employees**

Fitial said in a memo yesterday that DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Oogumoro will serve as acting commissioner for both DPS and the Department of Corrections effective immediately.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham separately said the Office of the Attorney General is now reviewing the

See MAFNAS on Page 4

139 ink petition for ouster of Mafnas

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A petition seeking the immediate ouster of Department of Public Safety Commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas was submitted yesterday to the offices of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos.

A total of 139 personnel at DPS
See PETITION on Page 4

Burglars hit Garapan school

» **New computers, LCD projector, laptop, others stolen**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

It was an emotional day for over 800 students at Garapan Elementary School after learning they lost thousands of dollars worth of precious equipment and other instructional materials to burglars, who struck not once but twice this week.

GES principal Paulette Sablan disclosed yesterday that the school was victimized twice on the mornings of Sunday and Monday. Over \$10,000 worth of new computers and other equipment were stolen in both incidents.

Sablan said that a school security

See BURGLARS on Page 4



ISLAND VISITOR

Japan's largest cruise ship, M/S *Asuka II*, is seen docked at the seaport yesterday afternoon. The 240.96-meter long vessel arrived on Saipan from Guam at 9am yesterday and left for Yokohama at 7am today.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

See story on Page 4

Cameron completes journey to Earth's deepest point

HONOLULU (AP)—Hollywood icon James Cameron has completed his journey to Earth's deepest point.

The director of *Titanic*, *Avatar*, and other films used a specially designed submarine to dive nearly

In this photo provided by National Geographic, filmmaker and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence James Cameron gets a handshake from ocean explorer and U.S. Navy Capt. Don Walsh, right, just before the hatch on the *Deepsea Challenger* submersible is closed and the voyage to the deepest part of the ocean begins, Sunday, March 25, 2012. AP

seven miles. He spent time exploring and filming the Mariana Trench, about 200 miles southwest of the Pacific island of Guam, according to members of the National Geographic expedition.

Cameron returned to the surface of the Pacific Ocean on Monday morning local time, according to Stephanie Montgomery of the National Geographic Society.

He spent a little more than three hours under water after reaching a depth of 35,756 feet before he began his return to the surface, according to information provided by the expedition team. He

See CAMERON on Page 4



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Local

Saipan casino petition to be launched tomorrow

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan voters could start signing off on a local initiative to legalize casino gaming on Saipan on Wednesday afternoon. If it garners at least 2,500 to 2,700 signatures, the question could be included in the Nov. 6 ballot.

The 22-page local initiative, which took weeks of drafting and redrafting, requires a \$5 million initial license fee to be paid within 90 days after the license approval and \$200,000 in annual license fee every year thereafter.

Three casino licenses are

available: two for an existing hotel with at least 250 guest rooms, golf club resort or resort, and one for a new investment of at least \$100 million inclusive of a hotel resort or convention center.

One other casino license is also available to a Northern Marianas descent corporation.

Dr. Jack Angello, a retiree and one of the individuals leading the signature drive, said yesterday that the public launching will be at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan on Wednesday at 4:30pm.

"We want this to be transparent. As a retiree, I am con-

cerned about the welfare of the NMI Retirement Fund and the welfare of those who are on 64-hour work biweekly. I want them to be restored to 80 hours. And this casino initiative will help us realize this," Angello told *Saipan Tribune*.

Under the initiative, all funds generated will be available for appropriation only on Saipan and the Northern Islands.

The initial license fee of \$5 million will be used to restore 80 work hours biweekly for government employees living on Saipan. Of the remaining funds, 50 percent will go to the NMI

Retirement Fund; 20 percent will fund the medical referral program for Saipan residents; 20 percent to the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Board; and other programs and purposes as determined by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Angello said those who want to know more about the casino initiative and want to sign off on it are invited to attend the public launch on Wednesday.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) is working on a separate casino initiative.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Marianas Photo Contests in Korea

Dynamic photos from the Northern Marianas take front stage in the **Marianas Photo Contests** launched by the **Marianas Visitors Authority** in Korea last month.

The photo contest aims to increase awareness of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through online marketing tools and gather high quality photos for a promotional poster. The contest has two categories: landscapes and people in the Marianas. The grand prize winner will walk away with a brand-name bag, while gift certificates



await the golden and silver prize winners, and Marianas travel bags go to the bronze prize winners.

In addition, 50 participants who follow the MVA's Korean **Twitter** account and re-tweet the event message or who post a comment on the MVA's Korea blog at http://blog.naver.com/mv_aki will receive a coffee coupon.



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LOYALTY PROGRAM

Clients of Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. will now enjoy savings at Subway and Scoops locations through the Pacifica Loyalty Program. The Pacifica Loyalty Program was launched in September 2011 and was designed to increase traffic in establishments of partnering companies and to incorporate value-added incentives to Pacifica Insurance clients. Pacifica Insurance is inviting businesses from various industries to join their Loyalty Program. Information on the program can be easily obtained through the company's website at www.pacificains.com/pacificaloyalty. In the photo, general manager Shirley Sablan, left, presents a certificate of partnership to Subway business group manager Glen Hunter, center. They are joined by Pacifica Insurance's underwriter, Keomi Palacios.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PROJECT: PROM

April is
SEXUAL ASSAULT awareness month.
To benefit our high school students, please drop your
gently used formal attire to any public high school during school hours or the NMCADSV office in Springs Plaza. You can also stop by handbags etc. in Oleai or **MINATCHOM ATDAO** on **March 31st** from **10:00AM- 2:00PM**

Call the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at 234-3878 for more information.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2010-MU-AX-0019 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Work on \$13M-\$15M luxury villas begins in Chalan Galaide

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In two years' time, Saipan will have \$13 million to \$15 million luxury vacation homes in Chalan Galaide with spectacular views of the western lagoon.

Land clearing has started, paving the way for actual construction in a sprawling 4.3 hectares of private property.

Man gets 120-day sentence for domestic violence cases

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman has imposed a 120-day prison term on a man who was convicted in four cases for beating up his wife in front of their children.

John Mendiola Camacho was given credit for the 23 days he has already served in jail.

"The attacks on the victim were brutal with dangerous shoving of her, punches to the head and face and the pulling of her hair," Wiseman.

The judge said the children had to witness most of this violence. On one occasion, Camacho even told the children to watch him beat up their mom.

"This, indeed, is a horrible part of their childhood that was thrust upon them by defendant's actions," Wiseman said.

The judge noted Camacho's several contacts with the court for his acts of domestic violence. He said the family had to move out of their home and into a shelter on at least one occasion in order to avoid the danger Camacho posed to them.

The 42-year-old Camacho will start serving his sentence on April 13, 2012. He is expected to be released on June 26, 2012.

In the 2008 case, Wiseman sentenced Camacho to a year in jail, all suspended except for 45 days, for assault and battery. In the 2010 case, Wiseman sentenced him to a year in prison, all suspended except for 45 days, for assault and battery. In the 2011 case, Camacho was sentenced to a year in prison, all suspended except for 20 days, for obstructing justice. For the crime of disturbing the peace in the same 2010 case, Camacho was sentenced to six months, all suspended except for 10 days.

The sentences are to run consecutively; this means that the total prison term is 120 days.

For three counts of disturbing the peace in the same 2010 case, Wiseman sentenced Camacho to six months, all suspended except for 10 days. The sentences for the three counts shall run currently with the sentences for the other charges. This means the 10-day sentence is included in the 120-day total prison term in all cases.

Camacho was also required to pay a \$600 fine and \$25 court assessment fee.

After completing his prison term, Camacho will be placed on probation for two years.

In May 2011, a Superior Court jury found Camacho not guilty of child abuse but Wiseman found him guilty of beating up his wife. (Ferdie de la Torre)



Wiseman

Galaide Estate Villas will have 25 luxury homes when completed, and targets affluent Chinese visitors looking for vacation homes on Saipan, said Al Cabael, Tropics Realty's project representative for the Galaide Estate Villas.

A visit to the site yesterday afternoon showed employees running excavators.

Cabael said they are now working on the first phase of the project, inclusive of 11 villas. He said the whole project will be completed in two years, with a total of 25 villas.

Galaide Development LLC, a group of Chinese investors out of Beijing, is the owner/developer.

Galaide Estate Villas is just

among the few new foreign investments in the CNMI amid a slow economy.

Cabael said the investors recognize the island's "beauty," its "ideal weather," its people, and golf courses, among other things.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday the CNMI needs new investors

such as the Galaide Estate.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), author of a local bill that amended the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 mainly its setback provision, had said this multi-million project will create construction and related jobs, generate revenue for the government through taxes, and spur other economic activities.

Cabrera said each housing unit will have its own swimming pool and pavilion.

Cabrera's bill, which became Saipan Local Law 17-12, changed the existing "setback" requirement of 30 feet from the property line at all sides under the Saipan Zoning Law, to only "10 feet," making it consistent with the Coastal Resources Management regulations.

Man, 50, arrested for alleged sexual abuse of girl

Police arrested Friday a 50-year-old man for allegedly sexually abusing a 6-year-old girl at a residence in Dandan.

Domingo Lantican Dy was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing on the charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the sec-

ond degree. His bail was set at \$10,000 cash.

Police detective Jason T. Tarkong stated in his report that police officers responded Thursday to a reported sexual abuse of a minor.

Tarkong said the incident happened on Wednesday when

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Cruise ship swings by Saipan as part of annual voyage

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Japan's largest cruise ship, the *M/S Asuka II*, made its annual voyage to Saipan yesterday morning, bringing 400 passengers and 470 officers and crew members for an overnight stay on island.

The 240.96-meter long vessel (about 790 feet), owned by Nippon Yusen Kai-sha, arrived after 10 hours of travel from Guam and docked at the seaport by 9am.

Asuka II's visit is part of a 10-day cruise that began in Yokohama, stop-

ping over at Kobe, then spending three days at sea before reaching Guam and subsequently Saipan before it heads back to Japan.

The ship's arrival comes over a week after the aborted passenger landing last March 15 of another cruise liner, *Queen Mary 2*.

Commonwealth Ports Authority Port of Saipan manager Mary Ann Q. Lizama said yesterday that a floral shower was provided "as the ship was coming in," while the Marianas Visitors Authority made arrangements for the local performers who entertained the ship's

passengers and crew at the port. Saipan Shipping served as the ship's husbanding agent while R&C Tours was the tour agent.

Lizama led a four-member party of reporters that boarded *Asuka II* for a tour conducted by first purser Yukiko Shindo.

Originally built by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries out of Nagasaki for Crystal Cruises fleet, *Asuka II* can accommodate up to 800 passengers and has eight passenger-accessible decks.

Majority of their passengers, Shindo said, are Japanese retirees.

SBA now says CNMI ineligible for STEP grant

The CNMI Department of Commerce announced yesterday the unfortunate news received from the Office of International Trade under the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The notice from OIT received yesterday, immediately following a teleconference between representatives of OIT, SBA and CNMI Commerce, stated that the STEP Grant Program is cancelled and stressed that the Commonwealth will not be eligible to apply for future STEP awards as well, pursuant PL 111-240, §1207.

CAMERON

From Page 1

had planned to spend up to six hours on the sea floor.

Cameron's return aboard his 12-ton, lime-green sub called *Deepsea Challenger* was a "faster-than-expected 70-minute ascent," according to National Geographic.

There were no immediate reports regarding Cameron's well-being. A medical team was present when Cameron, 57, emerged from the sub, according to the expedition.

Expedition physician Joe MacInnis told National Geographic News before the journey that recent test dives, including one that went more than five miles deep, had gone well and that he expected Cameron would be fine.

"Jim is going to be a little bit stiff and sore from the cramped position, but he's in really good shape for his age, so

Effective immediately, all activities and/or expenditures under the CNMI STEP Grant Program are hereby cancelled. All affected individuals and/or agencies are encouraged to contact the Department of Commerce at 664-3044 for any comments and/or concerns.

Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar clarified that the CNMI was indeed not qualified to apply for the STEP grant, but was later classified as a qualified applicant following discussions by Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan.

"I want to express my gratitude to the

I don't expect any problems at all," said MacInnis, a long-time Cameron friend, according to National Geographic.

There was no immediate word on when photographic footage of the journey will be released.

The scale of the trench is hard to grasp—it's 120 times larger than the Grand Canyon and more than a mile deeper than Mount Everest is tall.

"It's really the first time that human eyes have had an opportunity to gaze upon what is a very alien landscape," said Terry Garcia, the National Geographic Society's executive VP for mission programs, via phone from Scotland.

Swiss engineer Jacques Piccard and Don Walsh, a U.S. Navy captain, are the only others to reach the spot. They spent about 20 minutes there during their 1960 dive but couldn't see much after their sub kicked up sand from the sea floor.

One of the risks of a dive so deep

Leon Guerrero said that Mafnas runs the department like a dictator; they are not allowed to open their mouth.

"We're asking, appealing to our leaders—Gov. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Inos—to listen and help us," he said.

Now that the petition is with Fitial and Inos, Leon Guerrero said that DPS personnel are just waiting for these officials to sit down with them to discuss their concerns.

Leon Guerrero said many other DPS personnel are still coming in to sign the petition on top of the 139 that already signed.

DPS has 197 personnel on Saipan; 32 on Tinian; and 26 on Rota.

A total of 108 personnel on Saipan, 12 on Tinian, and 19 on Rota signed the petition.

"Some of our personnel are scared to sign it because of retaliation or some type of getting back to them. I'm going to respect that. Nobody is coerced to sign the petition," Leon Guerrero said. "I'm doing this for my guys, for the department."

He said he had high hopes when Mafnas first assumed the post of com-

grand accomplishments of our vibrant CNMI STEP Team for getting the STEP grant up to speed at full force, which includes CSD director Perry Inos Jr., ABTC director David Maratita, MVA's Perry Tenorio, Judy Torres, and the staff at CDA," said Igisomar. "This grant allowed us to thoroughly review our export status and provide a mechanism that we can later duplicate for our small businesses if given the proper resources."

Igisomar also noted that the OIT representatives did assure him that they will look at other available resources to better assist the CNMI with respect to similar programs under the STEP. (DOC)

was extreme water pressure. At 6.8 miles below the surface, the pressure is the equivalent of three SUVs sitting on your toe.

Cameron told The Associated Press in an interview after a 5.1 mile-deep practice run near Papua New Guinea earlier this month that the pressure "is in the back of your mind." The submarine would implode in an instant if it leaked, he said.

But while he was a little apprehensive beforehand, he wasn't scared or nervous while underwater.

"When you are actually on the dive you have to trust the engineering was done right," he said.

The film director has been an oceanography enthusiast since childhood and has made 72 deep-sea submersible dives. Thirty-three of those dives have been to the wreckage of the Titanic, the subject of his 1997 hit film, which is being released in a 3-D version next month.

missioner. However, a lot of problems began surfacing and the situation at the department started deteriorating, he added.

Capt. Lawrence Camacho, then chief of DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau, wrote to chief prosecutor Peter Prestley about Mafnas' questionable actions in the investigation into the murder of bartender Emelita Romero. In that letter, Camacho alleged that Mafnas interfered with the investigation.

Last Friday, *Saipan Tribune* broke the story about complaints that Mafnas allegedly threatened to arrest, handcuff, and shoot Filipino security guards and a Korean dive instructor in separate incidents in Marpi.

In response to the issues, Mafnas said he welcomes any independent investigation by federal and CNMI authorities. He said the allegations are the products of individuals "with ulterior motives to fulfill their selfish agenda."

Mafnas denied he deliberately interfered with the investigation in the Romero case and blamed three to four "sore" senior officers at DPS of being behind these allegations.

Shindo, who has been working for *Asuka II* for over six years now, described their voyage from Guam to Saipan as "very calm, nice, and quiet."

According to Shindo, *Asuka II* usually visits the Marianas toward the end of the year. During their December trip, however, the ship went to Asia, visiting China and Hong Kong in time for New Year.

The ship, scheduled to depart Saipan today at 7am, is expected back in Yokohama, Japan on March 30 where she only has two days before leaving for its famed 100-day cruise, bringing passengers to a tour of Asia, South Africa, South America, United States, and Canada before heading back to Japan.

The cost for the 100-day cruise,

Shindo said, can go as high as \$2,500 per night per person or over \$4,000 for couples staying at their most expensive suite, the Royal Suite. Meanwhile, a regular cabin would cost about \$600 per night, which Shindo said is the "most reasonable" cost. Rates are inclusive of breakfast, lunch, and dinner but not alcoholic beverages.

Lizama said that the Ports Authority receives three to four cruise ships a year and *Asuka II* has been visiting the island regularly that the agency decided to have the ship's logo painted on the port's bridge.

"She's always a sight to see. Saipan is her home and it's always going to be a home that they can come back to," she added.

school campus. Sablan said the burglars broke the doorknob of the main entrance. Police authorities were called again to probe the incident.

Saipan Tribune learned that the burglars also tried to enter other classrooms but were unsuccessful.

Acting education commissioner Glenn Muña was at the campus yesterday, checking out the school's situation. In coordination with principals, he immediately implemented emergency measures to ward off future burglaries. Sablan refused to disclose these new measures, citing the safety of students.

GES has only one 24-hour security aide detailed to watch over more than 40 classrooms and other facilities.

According to the security log sheet, the security aide did a routine round of the area an hour before the incident early Sunday morning.

Sablan and school officials immediately reported the Sunday incident to police and accompanied authorities in their inspection and investigation of the incident.

Yesterday, Sablan received a call from her kindergarten teacher around 7:30am reporting another burglary. This time, over \$3,000 worth of school equipment were stolen, including a desktop computer, a laser printer, teacher resources, cables, and chargers. Also found missing was the teacher's personal laptop.

Due to the lack of classrooms, GES accommodates its kindergarten classes at the MIHA Housing units behind the

"It's a serious matter. We will discuss it [today] and we go from there. I personally want this addressed and resolved," Rep. Demapan said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the allegations are "serious matters that warrant the governor's immediate attention."

"Cognizant that all persons are innocent until proven guilty, the administration will take all necessary steps to ensure that the integrity of the Commonwealth's police force is not compromised. The Attorney General is currently communicating with the U.S. Attorney's Office on this matter," he said.

Buckingham said while OAG is fully capable of conducting a review of facts and issues, "there is also an issue of perception and public confidence."

"Commissioner Mafnas has stated that he welcomes either a CNMI or a federal investigation. Likewise the Office of the Attorney General welcomes a joint review of the issues presented," Buckingham said.

He has requested federal authorities to join his office in an investigation of this matter, but the request is still pending.

MAFNAS

From Page 1

complaints against Mafnas, now being petitioned for removal by at least 139 DPS employees. OAG has also sought assistance from the U.S. Attorney's Office on this matter.

"The general practice of the Office of the Attorney General is not to comment on pending investigations. However, given the high profile of this matter and public interest, it is appropriate to offer some comment. As to your question, yes, these matters are currently under review," Buckingham told *Saipan Tribune*.

He, however, said he cannot be more specific at this time.

At the same time, House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations chair Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that he will convene a committee meeting today to discuss the petition signed by at least 139 DPS employees wanting Mafnas's removal as DPS commissioner.

Copies of the petition were distributed yesterday afternoon at both the Legislature and the Office of the Governor.

MCDONALD'S SAIPAN FUNDRAISER

SVES, GES to use money won to obtain student benches

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

San Vicente Elementary School principal Yvonne Pangelinan received yesterday the \$8,000 cash prize her school won after finishing first place in McDonald's Saipan fundraising campaign for public elementary schools on island.

McDonald's Saipan owners Marcia and Joe Ayuyu turned over the prize to Pangelinan in a short ceremony yesterday at the restaurant's Chalan Laulau branch.

Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune* that the award will be used to obtain more benches for her students, while a portion may be used for the school's green energy project and some for other immediate needs of students.

SVES has nearly 600 students. Pangelinan assured that every single penny will be used wisely. She said teachers will be consulted about the priority needs that must be addressed.

SVES garnered 11,475 total points in the final counting on March 17.

Second place went to Garapan Elementary School, which garnered 9,615 points. It was

awarded the \$2,000 cash prize yesterday. The third place award of \$1,000 went to San Antonio Elementary School, which accumulated 8,010 total points. Other participating schools were awarded gift certificates yesterday.

GES principal Paulette Sablan said the \$2,000 will also be used to buy student benches for at least four buildings. GES is home to over 800 students this school year.

Also in attendance yesterday were acting education commissioner Glenn Muna and principals of other elementary schools.

This marked McDonald's Saipan's first fundraising campaign with PSS, garnering over 53,000 coupons for the event. Because of its success, Joe Ayuyu said his company looks forward to future partnerships with public schools.

"We're very happy that we were able to assist the public schools get some money for their immediate needs. With the financial condition of the government, any help from the community would be great for our schools," he said.

Ayuyu said he was also over-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winners of the recently concluded Saipan McDonald's/Public School System fundraiser gather for a group photo during awarding ceremonies yesterday at the company's Middle Road outlet. Holding the checks from left are San Vicente Elementary principal Yvonne Pangelinan, first place; Garapan Elementary principal Paulette Sablan and vice-principal Leila Yumul, second place; and San Antonio Elementary principal James Sablan, third place. Winners were flanked by McDonald's owners Joe and Marcia Ayuyu. Others in photo are the other school principals and acting education commissioner Glenn Muna.

whelmed to see a great number of families spending time and sharing meals with their children throughout the campaign period from Feb. 25 to March 17.

McDonald's Saipan, the island's leading fast food restaurant, is celebrating 19 years of service this year.

Throughout the event to com-

memorate those who have been directly affected by cancer, are sold for only \$5 each.

Raffle tickets are also sold at \$5 each for a chance to win prizes, including two round trip Economy Class tickets to any U.S. destination plus \$300 in travel credit vouchers or a Samsung smartphone with one-year free service.

T-shirts are on sale for just \$10 "in honor of the 10th year anniversary of the MMAC."

To buy any of these items, call 682-0050, email jlb6550@yahoo.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org.

The annual MMAC will take place on April 27 to 28 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Jr. High School field in Chalan Piao.

Luminaries, which will be lit

Merrill Lynch drops lawsuit vs Fund, others

New York-based Merrill Lynch, the former investment consultant of the NMI Retirement Fund that is being blamed for nearly \$150 million in losses sustained by the Fund's portfolio in 2009 alone, dropped yesterday its lawsuit against the Fund in federal court.

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith Inc. (Merrill Lynch),

through counsel Sean E. Frink, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI of its decision to dismiss the lawsuit in its entirety without prejudice.

Frink said the dismissal is pursuant to the agreement of the parties—Merrill Lynch and the defendants.

Frink did not elaborate on what prompted the decision.

Dismissal without prejudice means a case is dismissed but the plaintiff is allowed to re-file a new suit on the same claim in the future.

Merrill Lynch filed the lawsuit in January 2012 against the Fund over the filing of lawsuits against the company without arbitration. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



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"Together We Can Build A Future"

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be advised that the OVR staff will be on a two-day staff development this coming Wednesday and Thursday (03/28-29/12) from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Because of this important training, the OVR office will be closed temporarily just for these two days. Your understanding and support will be much appreciated. For any emergency alert, 287-6548 and 287-6538 should be contacted. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

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LOT NO.	LOCATION	SIZE (sqm)	DESCRIPTION	MIN. BID
1	345 R 114	960	House & Lot	150,000
2	Tr 22089-1-4	929	Vacant	3,000
3	Tr 21769-3-4	922.5	Vacant	1,500
4	Tr 21769-3-5	922.5	Vacant	1,500
5	230 R 01	9,384.5	Vacant	75,000
6	Part of 3290-1	5,000	Vacant	3,750
7	Part of 565 R 02	3,000	Vacant	14,700
8	Tr 21769-R2-3	900	Vacant	2,800
9	Tr 21769-R2-4	850	Vacant	2,400
10	Tr 22675-6	5,016	Vacant	40,000
11	Tr 22675-7	5,016	Vacant	40,000
12	Tr 22675-8	5,016	Vacant	40,000
13	Tr 22675-9	5,017	Vacant	40,000
14	Tr 22675-10	5,017	Vacant	40,000
15	Tr 22675-11	5,017	Vacant	40,000
16	Tr 22675-R3	5,016	Vacant	40,000
17	Tr 21837-3 New-4, Tr 21837-3 New-2 Tr 21837-3 New-1	3,000 750 1,286	Vacant	40,000
18	278-6	929	Vacant	15,500
19	278-11	929	Vacant	15,500
20	278-12	929	Vacant	14,000
21	Tr 22805-1-4	2,241	Vacant	20,000
22	004105	479	House & Lot	50,000
23	131 T 31	1,322	House & Lot	50,000
24	251 T 52 & 53	7,571	Vacant	50,000
25	031 T 19	1,085	Vacant	21,700
26	031 T 20	1,080	Vacant	21,600
27	031 T 21	1,080	Vacant	21,600
28	031 T 22	1,089	Vacant	21,780
29	031 T 23	1,089	Vacant	21,780

The following terms and conditions apply:

Fee Simple

1. The purchase price shall not be less than the listed Minimum Bid price.
2. A non-refundable deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid upon award by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard), with the remaining balance due within ten (10) business days of the award.
3. Failure to make timely payment of the remaining balance will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in the property will automatically revert back to CDA.
4. A quitclaim deed will be given upon full payment of the purchase price.

Leasehold

1. The Lease Price shall not be less than the listed Minimum Bid price.
2. An up-front payment of five percent (5%) of the Lease Price must be paid upon award by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard).
3. The balance of the Lease Price shall accrue interest at five percent (5%) per annum.
4. Monthly payments of the Lease will be considered rental payments only and not installments toward purchase and shall not grant the lessee any equity or ownership interest in the property or be construed in any way to encumber CDA's rights, title and interest in the property beyond the granting of a lease for a specific term of years.
5. Maximum acceptable Lease term shall be fifteen (15) years or 180 months.
6. A lease agreement will be given upon receipt of the up-front payment and shall include:
 - a. No alterations or improvements without the prior written consent of CDA.
 - b. Lessee to insure property and improvements during the Lease term.
 - c. Lessee responsible for all utilities and other charges associated with the property.
 - d. Lease not to be assigned or mortgaged without prior written consent of CDA.
 - e. Failure to make a monthly payment grounds for termination and eviction.
- f. Lease may, at the request of lessee, contain an Option to Purchase provision exercisable upon: (i) payment in full of the Lease Price; (ii) the Lease not having been declared to be in default; and (iii) payment of \$100.00 option consideration. If the option is properly exercised, a quitclaim deed will be given.

Fee Simple & Leasehold

1. Interested bidders and buyers are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of CDA in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or improvements or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer or lessee.
2. CDA reserves the following rights:
 - a. To withdraw any or all of the listed properties before sale or lease or before a bid for such property is accepted, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - b. To reject any and all bids or proposals.

Interested parties or persons may contact Oscar C. Camacho, CDA Loan Manager, at 234-6245 ext. 306 for further information or to inspect properties, appraisals or photos.

All bids and offers for lease or purchase must be submitted to CDA in a sealed envelope marked "FORECLOSED PROPERTY SALE" no later than **10:00 am, Thursday, March 29, 2012**. The bids and offers will be opened and evaluated by CDA's Comptroller with recommendations being made to CDA's Executive Director for final decision. In the event of competing bids or offers, CDA reserves its sole right to determine which bid or offer is most advantageous to CDA. Price, fee simple vs. leasehold, term and up-front payment are all factors to be considered.

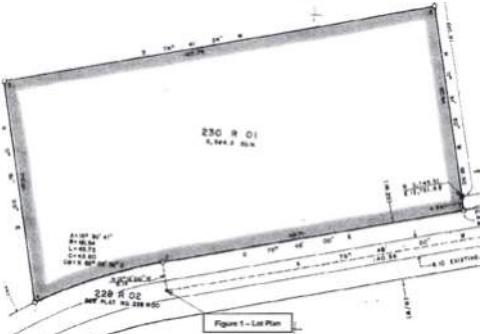
The acceptance or selection of any bids or offers will be announced on **Friday, March 30, 2012 at 2:00 pm** at CDA's Conference Room, Gualo Rai, Saipan.



Talafofo, Saipan



Tatguia, Rota



San Antonio, Saipan

'Fitness challenge' for the *man'amko*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Aging Office is putting together a "fitness challenge" for the island's elderly as part of *Mes Man'amko*, the Older Americans Month celebration in May.

Patterned after the reality show in the U.S. called *Biggest Loser*, the fitness challenge seeks to encourage the *man'amko* to engage in physical activities such as sports and exercise in keeping with the theme of this year's celebration, "Never Too Old to Play."

The challenge will have *man'amko* vying for the healthiest blood sugar and blood pressure levels as well as a healthy and normal body weight throughout the monthlong event.

Program coordinator Walter Manglona said yesterday that they plan to add more programs to the regular physical activities at the center.

Just last week, Manglona said the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council bought a new treadmill that will be among the equipment that will be used for the fitness challenge.

The new treadmill replaced two old ones previously donated by the Joeten company that have been out of order for a number of years.

Manglona said the *man'amko* who will win the challenge will receive prizes that will be solicited by the council from various business establishments and organizations on island.

"We will encourage the *man'amko* to participate in the activities we will provide because it's beneficial to their health," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*. "But before we do so, we'll have a physician come in and check if they are fit to do so to ensure their safety."

Manglona said doctors who check on the *man'amko* have constantly advised them that "staying active is the way to go" to regulate their blood pressure

PSS explores Title II grants for teachers' dev't programs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System is exploring a new federal grant that will help enhance the skills and training of the Commonwealth's teachers, according to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan.

In her recent visit to Washington, D.C., Sablan said that among the important meetings she attended was for the NCLB Title II, which is funding for teacher and principal training and recruitment efforts at the state and local level, as well as teacher training at institutions of higher education.

Saipan Tribune learned that this grant is designed to provide special help for "high need" school districts and schools that have been identified as needing improvement, having the lowest proportion of "highly qualified"



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Aging Center congregates Maria Salinas and Kimo Jordan are seen using the exercise equipment yesterday. The treadmill used by Salinas has been recently purchased by the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council to replace their two old ones that were out of order for some time. As part of the Older Americans Month celebration in May, the *man'amko* will participate in a fitness challenge to encourage the seniors to have a healthy lifestyle through physical activities.

and blood sugar levels and even fight Alzheimer's disease.

"That's why for the *Mes Man'amko*, we're trying to devise different friendly competitions that help the seniors get exercise, have them get up and do what they used to do because they're still strong and they're still part of the community," he said.

Among these competitions are the *man'amko* relay and

ground golf tournament. "We want this year's celebration to be huge and incorporate as much activities as we can," added Manglona.

Manglona said the council will be focusing for the whole month of April on the preparations for the monthlong celebration, which will kick off with a proclamation signing tentatively set on April 30.

PSS explores Title II grants for teachers' dev't programs

teachers, and have the highest average class size.

Title II funds are designed to rectify the problems of large numbers of students being taught by teachers with inadequate content knowledge and preparation in the subjects they are teaching.

According to Sablan, the Title II grant is critical to teachers' development programs, their certification requirements, and in evaluating their effectiveness in classrooms.

Title II replaces the old Eisenhower Professional Development Program, targeting money to high poverty school districts and limiting the use of the money to teacher training, recruitment and curricular improvement in science and math. Title II also replaces the old Class Size Reduction Program.

Besides the Title II meeting, Sablan said that a series of

meetings also took place with officials from granting agencies to ensure that PSS remains in compliance with all these agencies' requirements such as for the American Reinvestment Recovery Act and the PSS consolidated grants.

Sablan said she also attended a meeting about "waiver flexibility" for the NCLB.

In March 2010, the Obama administration released its blueprint for revising the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the nation's general education law and is currently known as the No Child Left Behind Act.

The ESEA is the major federal statute governing public education in states and districts across the country. Last authorized by Congress in 2002, ESEA is long overdue for reauthorization as U.S. Congress has yet to follow through on rewriting the law.

PSS to unveil state-of-the-art bus facility

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will be unveiling another first: a new state-of-the-art bus facility that was built with environmentally friendly materials.

The Lower Base facility, a sprawling structure spanning 13,700 square feet, is a total transformation from the aging, worn-out facility that was on

APPLYING FOR A CW VISA? HERE'S HOW

If you're applying for a CW visa at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, the Philippines, visit their website <http://manila.usembassy.gov/wwwhniv1.html#1>

Step 1. Pay the CW-1 application fee of \$150 or peso equivalent.

There are three ways to pay a machine-readable visa fee, including paying in cash at any branch of the Bank of the Philippine Islands or BPI. Some BPI branches require the original passport, while others allow scanned copies.

You can also pay through online bill payment option provided by BPI for their customers, or online payment through Bancnet.

Select "Petition-based Non-immigrant Visas."

To pay the fee, the applicant must have his or her passport number available. The applicant's passport number will be tied to the MRV fee paid at the bank

CW visa application fee is non-refundable and non-transferable.

Step 2. Prepare required documents.

All basic documentary requirements must be ready before an appointment can be made. Additional documents may be required.

Make a DS-160 online non-immigrant visa electronic application.

Signed passports must be valid for at least six months from the date of intended departure from the United States. The passport must be in good condition, i.e., photo lamination is undamaged, and all passport pages are intact.

Applicants must also present all previously issued passports or notarized affidavits of loss, if applicable.

Present one 2"x2" standard color photo, taken within the last six months.

Step 3. Schedule an

Parent Literacy Nights at Kagman High

All parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend Parent Literacy Nights at Kagman High School.

- Tuesday, March 27, for freshmen at 5pm,
- Wednesday, March 28 for sophomore and juniors at 5pm
- Thursday, March 29 for seniors

Mandatory for students who failed one or more courses this year. There will be light refreshments and free raffle! For more information, please call KHS main office at 237-3907/3834 or e-mail kagmans@gmail.com. (PR)

the brink of collapse when PSS decided to build a new one from the ground up in 2011.

In a visit to the newly built building yesterday, PSS Capital Improvement Project coordinator Rachel Fusco and acting education commissioner Glenn Muñoz

told *Saipan Tribune* that the new building will be officially

unveiled on April 10 after more than a year of construction.

Considered the largest of its kind in the

region, they said the Lower Base facility meets the requirements of the Federal Transportation Administration, which, among others, prioritizes safety and environmental protection.

Funded under an American

Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant, Fusco said the facility will house a motorpool with two mechanic pits, a procurement and supply warehouse, a dining hall, conference room, offices, and storage for tools and equipment, among others.

The project cost \$1.552 million.

Muñoz gave the *Saipan Tribune* a tour of the facility, which he said will soon house all 19 PSS buses and eight American Disabilities Act accessible vans.

Since construction began last year, school buses have been



MONETH G. DEPOSA

The Public School System's state-of-the-art bus facility in Lower Base will be unveiled on April 10 after more than a year of construction using federal grants. Among its highlights are a motorpool with two mechanic pits, dining hall, conference hall, and a procurement and supply warehouse.

Zoning to map out next course of action

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Zoning staff and board members are set to convene next week to work on their next course of action after a local bill that proposed massive changes to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 was vetoed last Thursday.

Applicants must bring all the basic application requirements, including the interview appointment letter, DS-160 confirmation page, valid passport, one 2" x 2" photo, and all prior passports and U.S. visas, if available.

It is helpful to bring a government-recognized photo ID (in addition to the passport) to present upon entry.

Step 5: If issued a visa: A consular officer will inform the applicant at the conclusion of the interview whether he/she qualifies for a U.S. visa.

If a visa is approved, the passport with U.S. visa will be delivered by the courier service at the address provided when the made the appointment. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

Acting Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro said yesterday that their meeting is scheduled on April 4.

"Although our agenda has been published already, I'm sure we will be discussing this development during the meeting," Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed last Thursday House Local Bill 17-26, authored by Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), which would have rezoned 29 areas on Saipan.

Asked for her comment on the governor's action, Ogumoro said, "I'm happy that the bill was vetoed by the governor. I'm

happy knowing that it's the right thing for our island."

"As for our next move, we're waiting to see what happens after this," she added.

Ogumoro noted that they are prepared with their comments and reports should the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation request their presence in a meeting to discuss the zoning amendments.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, March 30, 2012 beginning at 9:30am at MPLT Conference Room, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I. PRELIMINARIES
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - 4. Election of Officers
 - 5. Adoption of Minutes
- February 17, 2012
- March 12, 2012
- II. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT
- III. CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
 - Investment Consultant Report
 - o February Flash Report
 - Board Consultant Report
 - o Financial Report
- IV. LEGAL COUNSEL
 - DPL/CHC property
 - Updates
 - o NMHC
 - o APLE501
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - Alternative Investment
 - CHC – update
- VI. COMMUNICATIONS
 - DPL
- VII. NEW BUSINESS
 - FY 2011 Audit – draft
- VIII. MISCELLANEOUS
 - Nansay Micronesia
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council
Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 2012 at 5:30pm, Chalan Kanoa Head Start Resource Center, Saipan.

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Quorum
 - 4. Adoption of Agenda
 - 5. Adoption of Minutes:
 - a. February 29, 2012
- II. Public Comments
- III. Communications
 - 1. From the State Board of Education
 - 2. From the Office of Head Start
- IV. Monthly Reports
 - 1. Managers
 - 2. Director
 - 3. Human Resource Officer
 - 4. Finance Director
 - 5. Center Representatives
 - 6. Standing Committee
- V. Action Items
 - 1. Approval of SY 2011-2012 Self-Assessment Report
 - 2. Approval of SY 2011-2012 Community Assessment Report
 - 3. Approval of School Readiness Goals
- VI. Old Business
 - 1. Review of Notices of Federal Interest
 - 2. Center Plans for Parent Activity Funds
 - 3. Updates of Staff Qualification Waivers
- VII. New Business
 - 1. FY 2012-2013 Notice for Continued Refunding and Guidance
 - 2. Miscellaneous Matters
 - 3. HPC Meeting date, venue and time.
- IX. Executive Session¹
- X. Next Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Naydine Aguon at (670) 664-3751; several days notice is required.

/s/ Vinnie Sablan
Chairperson

¹ Pursuant to 1CMC § 9912, the Council may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

drivers have been working on their buses outside the old building, which is deemed unsafe. "Now, it's really a lot safer for them and our buses."

The project was designed by SSFM International, the contractor is Tropex Garden, and the project manager is RR Group LLC.

Two years ago, PSS launched a multimillion-dollar renewable energy program that aims to build solar panels and wind turbines in at least 10 public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Pioneered by Saipan Southern High School, this project is ongoing and has already been hailed by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Sea turtle advocacy group calls for volunteers

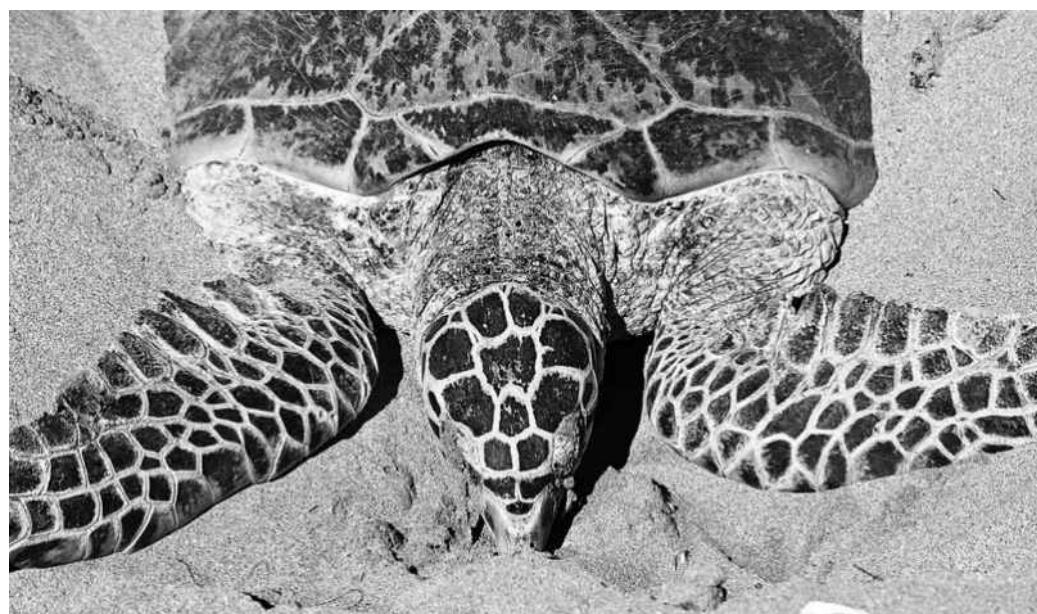
Sea turtles have lived on Earth unchanged since the time of the dinosaurs. They are among the most mysterious of animals, wandering the depths of the ocean for years at a time, only to return to the beach where they were born in order to lay their eggs. Yet for all their longevity and secretiveness, their numbers in the wild have dwindled and they are now fighting against extinction.

The CNMI sea turtle population is itself facing enormous pressure, and the number of nesting females returning to lay eggs on our shores has declined to a handful in recent years. Of the CNMI's two indigenous species, the Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) has not been identified as nesting on Saipan's shores for a number of years, and the Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) has been reduced to a handful of nests annually from a pre-decline annual average of dozens of nests or more.

The precipitous decline of the CNMI's sea turtles has led a coalition of concerned citizens to band together and form a non-profit called the Turtle Advocacy and Guardian Society, or TAGS, with the express purpose of combating the illegal poaching and other causes of turtle population decline in the CNMI.

This past summer, TAGS initiated a beach monitoring program to safeguard the sea turtles coming ashore to lay eggs on Saipan's sands. Centered on Wing Beach, the monitoring program recruited residents to walk the beach every morning to identify nests and monitor the site for signs of poaching, pollution, and any other form of encroachment that could endanger the nesting females or their eggs.

The program results met TAGS' goals of protecting wildlife and enhancing coordination between local residents, non-profits, and government officials. TAGS identified and monitored several nests, and they believe their increased surveillance of the nesting sites, in coordination with law enforcement



A Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) goes back to the water after nesting and laying her eggs. KELLIE PENDOLEY

ment and federal researchers, played a role in reducing the depredation of turtles last season. Encouraged by last year's results, TAGS plans to expand the scope of its 2012 beach monitoring efforts by recruiting volunteers to monitor several new beaches this upcoming nesting season.

TAGS has also successfully recruited many dedicated volunteers for the group, and they plan on expanding the number of their activities in the upcoming year. Their efforts will include raising funds through hosting a turtle art exhibit, a fundraiser party, and various community outreach and turtle patrol trainings.

"I have always been fascinated with sea turtles since I saw my first one in its natural habitat in Jamaica in 1996. When I learned to scuba dive here on Saipan a few years ago, I saw two on my first open water dive and my enthusiasm grew," Arielle Buyum, one of TAGS enthusiastic volunteers, stated.

Sea turtles are a vital species for the marine ecosystem and play an important ecological role. Unless more efforts are made to combat the rising tide of poaching, accidental capture by fishermen, and habitat destruction, it is possible that they may not live on into the next century.

"I want future generations to be able to have the experiences with turtles as I had. I know I can't do much alone to make an impact for the turtles, but together with other caring people I believe we can really make a difference. That is why I joined TAGS. If I can help just one baby turtle make it to the sea and grow into an adult then it is worth my time and effort," said Buyum.

In the upcoming season, TAGS would like to invite anyone who is willing to help in ensuring the safety for the sea

turtles to join the organization. TAGS is planning to host several outreach programs, art exhibits, and an expanded beach monitoring program to build awareness of the challenges facing the CNMI's sea turtles and help stabilize their population. Hopefully there will be "zero poaching, as well as healthy, productive nests," said Eileen Escudero-Wisor, chairwoman of TAGS.

Send an email to Saipan-TAGS@gmail.com for information on volunteering for the upcoming season. **(TAGS)**

\$65,000 to preserve WWII Japanese-American internment sites in Hawaii

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said yesterday that the National Park Service is awarding \$64,795 to help preserve and interpret the Honouliuli Internment Camp and other Hawaiian sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II.

Through outreach presentations developed by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, the project aims to engage high school students in the study of Japanese-American confinement. JCCCH will update materials and make study units available to social studies teachers and schools through its Resource Center and website in addition to making presentations at 12 schools. Students will be encouraged to develop projects that link lessons learned about Japanese-American confinement in Hawaii to current issues such as discrimination and bullying in schools. The project will culminate in May 2014 with a public event featuring student projects.

This project is part of a larger program of 17 grants across 11 states totaling nearly \$2.9 million. With this year's grants, the Japanese-American Confinement Sites Grant Program, now in its fourth year, has awarded nearly \$9.7 million in funds since Congress established the \$38 million program in 2006.

"If we are to tell the full story of America, we must ensure that we include difficult chapters such as the grave injustice of internment of Japanese-American

ians during World War II," Salazar said. "The internment sites serve as poignant reminders for us - and for the generations to come - that we must always be vigilant in upholding civil liberties for all."

The incarceration of thousands of Japanese-Americans, two-thirds of them American citizens, followed Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

"These places, where more than 120,000 Japanese-Americans were unjustly held, testify to the fragility of our constitutional rights in the face of fear and prejudice," said National Park Service director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "The National Park Service is honored to help preserve these sites and tell their stories, and thus prevent our nation from forgetting or repeating a shameful episode in its past."

Grants from the Japanese-American Confinement Sites program may go to the 10 War Relocation Authority camps established in 1942 or to more than 40 other sites, including assembly, relocation, and isolation centers.

The program goal is to teach present and future generations about the injustice of the World War II confinement and inspire a commitment to equal justice under the law.

This year's winners were chosen through a competitive process that requires applicants to match the grant award with \$1 in non-federal funds or "in-kind" contributions for every \$2 they receive in federal money. **(DOI)**

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 5th birthday to Darren Jay Babauta! We love you so much! Greetings come from Daddy Mo', Mommy Mae, Non, Mia, and everybody at Chinatown.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday to Ramon Rejano! Wishing you good health, more blessings and more birthdays to come! Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



KING OF THE LANES
Congratulations to Joseph Paraiso, who was recently recognized with a King of Lanes trophy. We're proud of you. With love, your sisters Brianna and Joanie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 27, 2000

Water desalination project pressed

A proposed water desalination plant on Saipan has drawn fresh attention from local officials as the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation seeks ways to undertake the costly project aimed at alleviating serious water shortages in some areas on the island. Saying it is the only solution to the perennial problem, House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial has pressed the government-owned utility corporation to revive the plan that has been held off twice due to high costs of building such a facility. "Let's not fool around with preventive measures now because we have an epidemic water problem. Let's go directly to a curative measure, and that is to install a system that will guarantee drinking water," he told in an interview.

NMC settles with \$6.8M budget for 2000

Following a sizable cut in its budget request for Fiscal Year 2000, the Northern Marianas College may be forced to put in place additional belt-tightening measures in order to stretch its \$6.8 million budget approved by the House of Representatives. Acting NMC President Jack Sablan said, however, that the College could operate well within the boundaries of its budget allocation for FY2000 although some programs may be streamlined primarily because of the reduction. "Preliminary discussions with the people who handles the budget and finance matters at the College showed that we are okay with that (\$6.8 million) budget," Mr. Sablan said.

Mar. 27, 2001

Fitial seeks more federal funds to build sports, cultural centers

Economic recovery will not solely depend on the entry of foreign investments but the relentless effort of the administration to bring in more tourists. To bolster the economic agenda of the Covenant Party, standard bearer and concurrent House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial recently asked the US government for funding assistance to immediately construct the proposed 6,000-seat capacity Saipan Sports Complex. Mr. Fitial said once the complex is completed, the Northern Marianas will be able to host international events and other sports activities which will generate additional revenues for the government.

\$105K for Saipan projects OK'd

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday approved the allocation of \$10,000 for the renaming of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council Building in honor of the late Council Secretary Pedro T. Nakatsukasa. The governor's approval came in the form of Saipan Local Law 12-10 which practically renames the structure as Pedro T. Nakatsukasa Building and earmarks \$10,000 for the undertaking. In his transmittal letter, Mr. Tenorio explained that half of the total appropriation will cover the expenses of the dedication while the other half will be for the building renovation.

Mar. 27, 2003

SNILD questions \$430K deficit

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation approved four appropriation measures that would finance local construction and beautification projects, and provide additional funding for the operation and renovation of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council. Among those adopted were HLB 13-36 that re-appropriates \$38,000 to renovate and operate the SNIMC and HLB 13-37, which earmarks \$60,000 from Saipan Local Law 11-2 to supplement the municipal council's budget. Commenting on HLB 13-37, the Department of Finance indicated that poker fees collected from SLL 11-2 was over appropriated by \$430,000.

PSS seeks waiver on FEMA requirement

The Public School System has asked for a waiver on insurance coverage requirement set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in connection with the release of reimbursement for typhoon-damaged schools. Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos, in a recent letter to Vicky Villagomez, the Governor's authorized Representative said the PSS has no budget for purchase of insurance policy. "Schools on the island are not insured that it leaves us no choice but to ask for your assistance in securing a waiver from FEMA of this requirement. Due to limited resources and the economic situation of the CNMI, we are unable to secure adequate funding to operate and insure all of our schools," Inos said.

26th Annual Red Cross Walkathon

Photos by CLARISSA V. DAVID



Students take their turn to win Western Union items at a tent located at the Garapan Fishing Base.



Walkers enjoy free sandwiches, milk, and water provided by premier sponsors Subway and Foremost.



Community members line up for a free blood pressure checkup.



A young girl smiles as a young boy holds a guinea pig, one of the attractions at the walkathon's petting zoo.



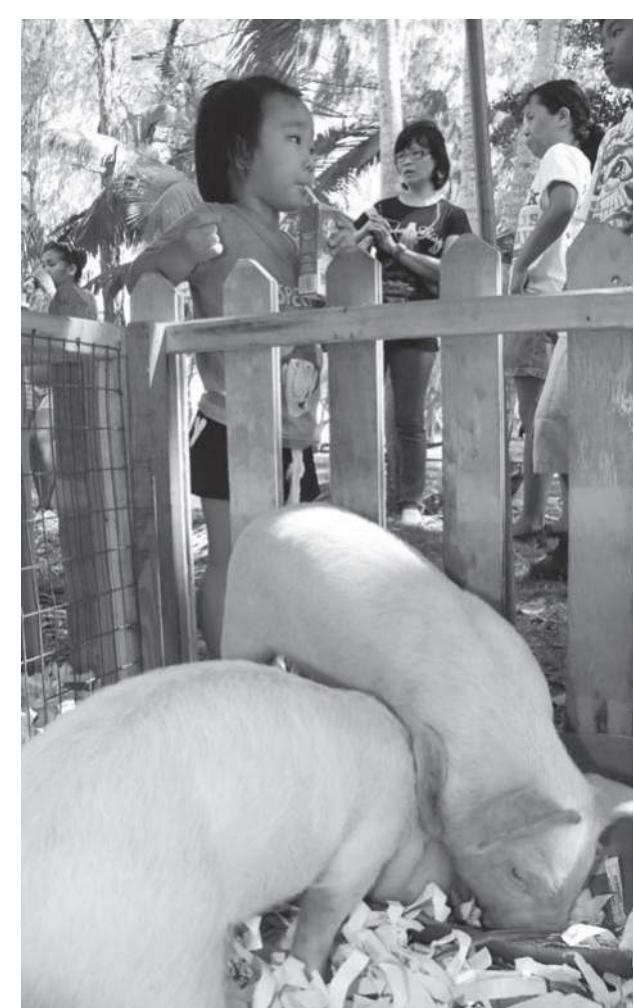
Two students eagerly wait for their prize at the Western Union tent.



A boy tries his luck at one of the game tents at the walkathon.



A Red Cross volunteer paints the face of this girl.



A young girl drinks her free Foremost milk by the piglets' cage at the petting zoo.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Tightening sanctions noose on Iran

Barely two weeks ago, the drumbeat of war against Iran pounded like a throbbing headache. Israel's prime minister made the rounds in Washington threatening to launch a pre-emptive attack, while President Barack Obama argued his best case for letting economic sanctions run their course.

After the prime minister's departure, the international banking system came together like never before. The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, or SWIFT, broke a longstanding neutrality policy and announced it would disconnect about 30 Iranian banks from the system, including Iran's central bank. As of Saturday, Iran's ability to finance its march toward nuclear armament became tougher than ever.

Without access to SWIFT, it becomes almost impossible to complete the large international funds transfers necessary to keep any nation's economy functioning smoothly. Perhaps SWIFT's break from neutrality is a measure of the financial world's overriding concern about the dangers posed by a nuclear-armed Iran.

Tehran should have noticed instantaneous effects of SWIFT's cutoff when virtually all major funds transfers from abroad—to totaling billions of dollars, mainly from oil transactions—suddenly ceased. Starting July 1, European nations will begin boycotting Iranian oil, while the U.S. tightens penalties on any foreign companies doing business with Iran's government.

Without SWIFT, countries that still do business with Iran, including China and Russia, could be reduced to a barter system—say, trading four freight ships full of wheat for a tanker of oil.

The world rarely has seen the noose of international economic sanctions tighten so securely around a country of Iran's pivotal importance. Inflation in Iran now is estimated to exceed 20 percent. Iran's currency is plummeting in value.

The most prominent pro-Israel lobby group has lauded SWIFT's action and called for Congress and the Obama administration to tighten sanctions even further. It is crucial to keep economic pressure building on Tehran until it abides by treaty obligations and opens its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

A Pentagon simulation this month underscored the very high risks of catastrophic outcomes if Israel attacks and draws the U.S. into direct military confrontation with Iran. A pre-emptive strike against Iran would inflict only temporary nuclear setbacks, according to Pentagon assessments, but it would almost certainly cause Tehran to harden its intransigence and permanently seal its facilities from future outside inspection.

Meanwhile, the international solidarity required to make these sanctions work would likely disintegrate as Tehran flaunts the role of victim. Why open either possibility?

It's because the current compilation of sanctions is exceptionally strong that we stand with the Obama administration in urging patience and military restraint. Iran's worst economic pain is yet to come, and already, the signs are clear that this strategy is working.

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Issues and problems with CW

Under the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, or CNRA, the solution for the CNMI's continuing need for, and let's face it, dependence on foreign workers, was the institution of the Transitional Worker Program, or classified by USCIS as "CW." In today's column we will examine some issues and problems that we have experienced in working with the CW program.

Delay in issuing final regulations

There were problems from the onset with the CW program, caused mostly by delay by the Department of Homeland Security in issuing the final governing regulations until Sept. 7, 2012, a mere 71 days prior to the filing deadline of Nov. 28, 2011. There is, however, more than enough blame to go around. The delay in issuing the final regulations was caused by a lawsuit, brought by the CNMI government, to enjoin the implementation of interim regulations that were published on Oct. 27, 2009. But for that lawsuit, the CW regulations would have been implemented on Nov. 28, 2009, and we would have had a full two years, prior to Nov. 28, 2011, to figure out how to deal with the CW program.

Although the federal judge dismissed the substantive portions of the lawsuit, which alleged that the federal government was overstepping its authority in taking over immigration in the CNMI, the judge agreed to block the implementation of the interim regulations until the comment period was extended. DHS extended the deadline for comments until Jan. 8, 2010, and further comments were received. Final regulations could have been published at any time after the close of the extended comment period, but were delayed for another 21 months. Instead of two years, employers and employees had little more than two months to gear up and file applications under the new program. This caused a lot of anxiety, confusion, and panic, and provided opportunities for the "immigration consultant" scammers who seemed to be operating with impunity last October and November. It probably also caused a lot of honest mistakes to be made in the applications.

Implementing the CW program

After the publication of the final regulations, USCIS launched a concerted effort of public education in the CNMI. For a period of 10 days in the later part of September 2011, a team of USCIS officials made multiple daily presentations to members of the public and private interest groups regarding procedures involved in obtaining CW status. Those training sessions were extremely helpful, as was the availability of those same USCIS officials to seek follow-up clarification on specific issues.

There are, however, ongoing bumps in the road. Today we will address three: (1) problems with foreign travel; (2) unreason-

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and
BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

able RFEs, and (3) difficulties in obtaining CW visas at foreign consulates.

1. Problems with foreign travel: Many clients come to us seeking assistance with emergency foreign travel. The need for emergency travel most often arises from medical conditions: we had an elderly Japanese man who needed to have a checkup with his Tokyo doctor and obtain the Japanese medicines that he is accustomed to using; we had a Chinese woman who needed to accompany her local U.S. citizen husband to Manila for a triple bypass; we had a Bangladeshi national with an undiagnosed tumor that he could not afford to have diagnosed or treated in the CNMI; and we have had several clients with parents in critical condition in foreign countries. We also had a number of clients who had an urgent need for business travel to attend board meetings, to close a deal, to negotiate contracts, or to buy inventory for their businesses.

The general rule is that if you are an alien living in the CNMI, and you have a pending visa of any type or a CW application pending, or if you have humanitarian parole, you must obtain advance parole if you wish to travel to a foreign country and return to the CNMI. You will not be permitted to re-enter the CNMI without either a visa or an advance parole. The advance parole application must be mailed to USCIS in Guam or dropped off at the ASC in Saipan, for transmittal to Guam. Unfortunately, the Guam Field Office is short-handed and underfunded and they simply are not able to turn around these applications quickly. The delay of mail service between Saipan and Guam doesn't help. The Guam Field office's target date for granting or rejecting parole application is 30 days. If you add mailing time to that, it is 40 days. That is simply too long to wait in the event of the kinds of emergencies described above.

See ISSUES on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

ISSUES

From Page 10

There are several options to address this problem:

a) Apply for advance parole and leave. You do not need advance parole to exit the U.S., only to re-enter. You will be stuck wherever you are going until the advance parole is granted and you receive it. But at least you can leave relatively quickly.

b) Apply for the advance parole and wait. Send your application to Guam via DHL and enclose a self-addressed prepaid DHL return envelope to speed up transmittal back to Saipan. Visit the Saipan ASC and call Guam USCIS to follow up on your application. If your request is compelling enough, you may be able to get expedited processing. But it will take a lot of time and a lot of work to succeed.

c) Important caveats:

■ **Transit visa for Guam.** If your itinerary routes you through Guam, you must obtain a Guam transit visa in addition to the parole. (If you intend to travel through any other U.S. immigration checkpoint instead of Guam, this warning applies to you, too.) You should request this at the time you make your advance parole application, or you may be able to get it by making an Infopass appointment at the Saipan ASC. However, Infopass appointments are not always available and we are told that the Saipan ASC is cutting back on issuing Guam transit visas. So if you are planning to make a connection in Guam, to Manila for example, ask for the transit visa in advance. Remember, if you do not have a transit visa through Guam, the airline will not board you. You may lose your existing ticket or be charged a re-booking fee. You may need to buy a whole new ticket routing you through Japan or Korea. This has happened to several clients who failed to inform us that they were planning to travel through Guam.

NOTE: You do *not* need a transit visa for the return trip, if you have either advance parole or a visa such as CW; you will be admitted to the U.S. at Guam, based on your advance parole or your visa, and you will not be considered to be "transiting." Your return to Saipan from Guam is deemed domestic travel.

■ **Return trip for CWs.** If you leave with advance parole, with CW or some other U.S. visa pending, and the visa petition is approved while you are still outside the U.S., you must visit the appropriate U.S. consulate to obtain the visa in order to return to the U.S., including the CNMI.

■ **Warning for green card applicants.** A number of CW applicants also have green card applications pending and have filed an I-485 application to adjust status. If this is your situation, you *must* have advance parole *before* you depart from the CNMI, or your I-485 will be considered abandoned, and you will lose your filing fees and have to re-apply.

2. Unreasonable RFEs: An RFE is a "Request for Evidence" issued by USCIS if, upon review of an application, the Service deems that additional evidence is necessary to adjudicate the application. We get RFEs in applications for employment-based applications (e.g., H-1B, E-1, E-2, L-1, L-2, EB-1C and R visas). We get them in green card applications and, increasingly nowadays, we get them in CW applications. Not all applications prompt RFEs, and most of the RFEs we get are reasonable and we are able to respond to them with the evidence needed and move the application along. Sometimes we get absurd requests, often having to do with the particular USCIS officer, or an outsourced substitute, having absolutely no clue as

to the relationship of the CNMI to U.S. immigration law. We have developed standard replies to those. The most outlandish RFE we ever got had to do with a demand that we show the validity of our Filipino clients' status under "the Civil Code of Tonga." Bruce's anger in that instance, articulated in a very stiff letter to the Missouri Service Center, brought changes to the way CNMI-based green card applications are handled. For a while, anyway.

However, we are receiving an unusual number of unreasonable RFEs on CW applications. The following are some examples:

■ **Proof that the employer is engaged in a legitimate business.** We have gotten numerous RFEs on this ground. While you may think that this type of RFE would be directed to small, arguably marginal businesses, that has not been our experience. We have gotten this type of RFE directed to some of the biggest private sector employers in the CNMI. One of these employers is a multinational corporation, with significant assets and employees worldwide. We processed a large number of CW applications for this employer. Yet the RFEs keep coming, asking us to provide proof that this is a real business, over and over for each individual CW applicant. At the same time, some employees of the same employer are being approved without RFEs, on the basis of essentially identical petitions. This should be comical but rather it is expensive and time consuming: each RFE response packet is upwards of half-an-inch thick or more.

■ **Separate requests for evidence regarding the employer's legitimacy for employees on the same petition.** In the training sessions conducted by USCIS on how to file CW petitions, employers were instructed to file only one petition for multiple employees in the same job category. We did that and attached the required company bona fides to each group petition. We are now getting RFEs for individual employees, who were included in one application, to provide the same corporate documents separately for each individual employee. This is a waste of time and effort. These materials were provided with each petition. But, again, we cannot simply ignore an official request and we must respond or have the petition denied.

■ **Federal income tax records.** We are also getting requests for evidence that simply doesn't exist. Good examples are Federal Income Tax Returns and IRS Computer tax records. It is not that these proofs do not exist for a particular employer, but that these proofs do not exist for anyone doing business in the CNMI by virtue of the legal structure of the Commonwealth and its relationship to the U.S.

■ **Request for publications.** We are asked to provide articles about the company and advertisements in trade journals and magazines. With the exception of large hotels and possibly a few other businesses, these items simply do not exist. The mainland adjudicators have clearly not been briefed about just how small the CNMI is and how small most businesses are in comparison to the U.S. economy. There is a world of small businesses in the CNMI that provide legitimate goods and services, that never had an article written about them, and which do not advertise. Does this make illegitimate businesses? We think not.

These are just a few of the unreasonable RFEs that we have received; more arrive every day. We will continue to advocate with USCIS to desist from using one-size-fits-all RFEs in reviewing CW applications, and to ensure that adjudicators are educated about economic and living conditions in the CNMI. We agree that there are many marginal or fraudulent employers in the CNMI who seek to employ CW workers or sponsor them in sponsorship scams. The Service should focus on eliminating those, not further burden legitimate

businesses that are already struggling in a very stressful economic climate.

All that being said, there is one very bright spot in CW adjudication: the CW email help desk at CNMI.CSC@uscis.dhs.gov. We have been able to correct application errors ranging from incorrect Social Security numbers to wrong job descriptions – no muss, no fuss.

3. Obtaining CW visas at foreign consulates: Now that we are starting to get CW petition approvals, we are discovering that some of the U.S. consulates abroad are not up to speed on the requirements. (This is also true of E-2C petitions as well; we have also seen consular officers confuse E-2 with E-2C.) When a CW petition is approved by USCIS and the CW employee is outside the U.S., he or she must obtain the visa from the U.S. consulate in the home country (unless another consulate is designated, which we have seen happen with green cards, but not yet with CWs).

This is supposed to be a straightforward application, for an approved petition: the applicant goes to the consulate, pays the US \$150 visa fee, gets the visa and goes away happy. Last week, however, we received a "221(g) Letter"—the consular equivalent of an RFE—for a CW applicant with an approved CW petition, who was interviewed at the U.S. Embassy in Manila. The 221(g) Letter demanded "a copy of the petition filed with DHS, including the Form I-129 and ETA 9035 (Labor Condition Application)/ETA 9081."

This was very wrong on two counts: First, the forms demanded by the consular officer simply do not apply to CW—they aren't required by law and, for CW employees, they don't exist. Second, the 221(g) Letter was issued in apparent violation of the Department of States' own Foreign Affairs Manual which states, in its instructions to consular officers regarding CD adjudications:

An approved Form I-129CW, Petition for a CNMI-Only Nonimmigrant Transitional Worker, is to be considered as *prima facie* evidence that the requirements for CW classification, examined in the petition process, are met. **Consular officers do not have the authority to question the approval of CW petitions without specific evidence, unavailable to DHS at the time of petition approval, that the beneficiary may not be entitled to CW status.** (9 FAM 41.34 N1.1a, emphasis added.)

So in addition to displaying his ignorance, the consular officer acted beyond his authority—unless, of course, he has specific evidence not available to USCIS when it approved the CW petition, that requires the petition to be investigated further. The FAM section on CW approvals can be found at <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/179937.pdf>.

We have communicated with the appropriate officials, and we anticipate that this particular problem will be resolved. We also will reply to the 221(g) Letter, because we cannot simply ignore the government's communications, no matter what we think of the request or demand. And we will hope that the consulates get their act together regarding the CNMI.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarias@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

Letter to the Editor**Stop the ego trips**

Hello Saipan, it's been awhile since I've written, but in light of the recent news events in the CNMI, I felt compelled to throw my two cents into the mix.

I have a question for Uncle Ben and Froilan regarding your latest comments to the people of the CNMI. What did you think would happen when you both acted like a couple of little school girls on the playground and started your name-calling and finger-pointing games regarding the latest casino bill fiasco? If the politicos of Tinian and Rota are, as you say, getting back at you for calling them stupid by killing your casino bill, well then, you got exactly what you deserved. You totally disrespected them on TV and you expect ed cooperation after the fact?

The first thing little girls learn in the schoolyard is that you catch more bees with honey than you do with vinegar. You want them to play nice? Then that is what you should be doing—by having

some dignity, showing respect, and leading by example. Vinegar is exactly what you were using when you opened your mouths and insulted the very people you were elected to represent.

So, now, after the people of Saipan have already spoken loud and clear with their votes in the past about not wanting a casino, you two elected officials are choosing to ignore the voice of the people and are trying to force the issue down their throats. If memory serves, wasn't the original intent of *not* having a casino on the island of Saipan was to allow the islands of Tinian and Rota to have the casinos, thereby ensuring they had income and a viable industry on island? So, by voting against you, the senators and representatives of Tinian and Rota were making a mature and wise decision by actually protecting *their* constituents from you. What part of "you-work-for-the-people" don't you understand?

If either of you had conducted any thoughtful and intelligent research regarding casinos helping the local economy, you would have learned that that is *not* the case. It has been shown that the arrival of a casino in any area only creates fewer jobs and makes for unfair com-

petition for businesses in the immediate area of a new casino. How does this happen, you ask? It's very simple: when a casino comes into a neighborhood and becomes an all-inclusive destination, with restaurants, stores and bars, it takes away business from the very same local business establishments, thereby driving them *out of business*. It is a proven fact. Do some research and you will find that this is why new casinos are being denied licenses here in the United States faster and far more often than new Wal-Marts. Because they destroy the local economy by driving the small businessman out.

In case you forgot what your mother and father taught you, if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all. It's time to put your petty differences aside, stop the ego trips and do your jobs: work for the betterment of the CNMI. If you want to keep calling people names, we'll have to wash your mouth out with soap and send you to your room.

Paul H. Beebe
Spokane, Washington

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Yap Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk Showers	▲ 90 ▼ 79
Pohnpei Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 59
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 38
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 65
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 69
London	Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 49
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 81 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 69
New York	Sunny	▲ 50 ▼ 39
Osaka	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 41
Paris	Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 43
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 46
Rome	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 46
Salem	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 45
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 57 ▼ 55
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 36
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 41
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 44

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:25 AM	Today	Low Tide: 0.9 Feet
10:41 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
5:50 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today		Wednesday		Friday	
6:16 AM	6:29 PM	9:02 AM	10:13 PM		
6:15 AM	6:29 PM	9:48 AM	11:03 PM		
6:15 AM	6:29 PM	10:36 AM	11:52 PM		
6:14 AM	6:29 PM	11:27 AM			
6:13 AM	6:29 PM	12:19 PM	12:40 AM		

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		Wednesday		Friday	
9:02 AM	10:13 PM				
9:48 AM	11:03 PM				
10:36 AM	11:52 PM				
11:27 AM					
12:19 PM	12:40 AM				

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SAR

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5

SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)

C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP

C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7

C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily

C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7

C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6

C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7

C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily

DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7

DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1

OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX

OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7

DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN

OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM

DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT

Business

Battle over Obama health law reaches high court

WASHINGTON (AP)—The monumental fight over a health care law that touches all Americans and divides them sharply comes before the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday. The justices will decide whether to kill or keep the largest expansion in the nation's social safety net in more than four decades.

Two years and three days after President Barack Obama signed into law a health care overhaul aimed at extending medical insurance to more than 30 million Americans, the high court begins three days of hearings over the law's validity.

The challenge from 26 states and a small business group puts the court smack in the middle of a heavily partisan fight over the president's major domestic accomplishment and a presidential election campaign in which all his Republican challengers oppose the law.

If upheld, the law will force dramatic changes in the way insurance companies do business, including forbidding them from denying coverage due to pre-existing medical conditions and limiting how much they can charge older people.

The law envisions that insurers will be able to accommodate older and sicker people without facing financial ruin because of its most disputed element, the requirement that Americans have health insurance or pay a penalty.

Another major piece of the law is an expansion of the government-funded Medicaid program for low-income Americans that will provide coverage to more than 15 million people who currently earn too much to qualify.

By 2019, about 95 percent of the country will have health insurance if the law is allowed to take full effect, the Congressional Budget Office estimates. About 50 million Americans currently lack health insurance coverage.

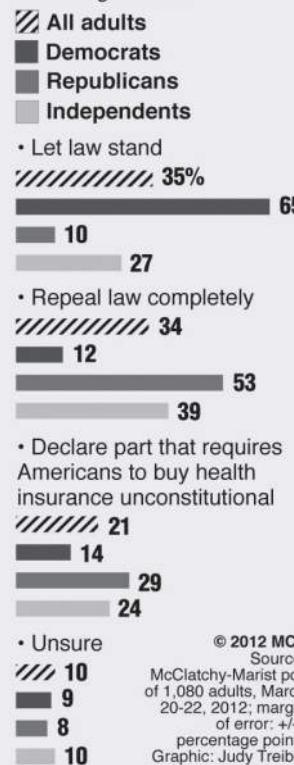
Reams of court filings attest that the changes are being counted on by people with chronic diseases, touted by women who have been denied coverage for



Monica Haymond, right, sits with her boyfriend Dana Stuter, both recent transplants to Washington from Pasadena, Calif., as they wait in line for tickets to the Supreme Court on the eve of the Supreme Court arguments on President Obama's health care legislation, in Washington, on Sunday, March 25, 2012.

ELECTION 2012 What to do with health care law

A new McClatchy-Marist poll asks: What should the U.S. Supreme Court do with the 2010 health care law when it hears arguments?



Another Japan reactor shuts down; only one left

TOKYO (AP)—Another Japanese nuclear reactor was taken off line for maintenance on Monday, leaving the country with only one of its 54 reactors operational following last year's devastating earthquake and tsunami.

The last reactor is expected to be shut down by early May, raising the possibility of power shortages across the nation as demand increases in the hot summer months.

The No. 6 reactor at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa complex was taken off line early Monday by the Tokyo Electric Power Co.

The utility also runs the plant in Fukushima, northeast of Tokyo, that suffered meltdowns, explosions and radiation leaks after the March 11 quake and tsunami.

Japanese reactors are taken off line every 13 months for regular checks. With concerns over nuclear safety high following the Fukushima crisis, none of the reactors that have been shut down for checks, and none that were already off line at the time of the disaster, have been allowed to restart.

The last reactor, on the northern island of Hokkaido, will be shut down in May. The timing for when any reactors will be restarted remains unclear.

Before the crisis, Japan depended on nuclear power for one-third of its electricity. Japan's government wants to restart reactors as soon as "stress tests" prove they are safe, but faces strong public opposition. Local leaders, fearing a political backlash, are reluctant to give their approval.

Authorities have required all reactors to undergo the stress tests and make necessary modifications to improve safety. The stress tests, similar to those used

in France and elsewhere in Europe, are designed to assess how well the plants can withstand earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, loss of power and other crises.

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda has promised to reduce Japan's reliance on nuclear power over time and plans to lay out a new energy policy by the summer.

In the meantime, Japan has temporarily turned to oil and coal generation plants to make up for the shortfall, and businesses have been required to reduce electricity use to help with conservation efforts.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Senators ask feds to probe requests for passwords

SEATTLE (AP)—Two U.S. senators are asking Attorney General Eric Holder to investigate whether employers asking for Facebook passwords during job interviews are violating federal law, their offices announced Sunday. Troubled by reports of the practice, Democratic Sens. Chuck Schumer of New York and Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut said they are calling on the Department of Justice and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to launch investigations. The senators are sending letters to the heads of the agencies.

Iraq oil exports, revenues decline in February

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's oil ministry says oil exports in January have declined by nearly 4.5 percent compared to the previous month. Sunday's statement says last month's oil exports averaged 2.0137 million barrels per day, down from an average of 2.107 million barrels per day in January. The sales grossed \$6.595 billion based on an average price of \$112.928 per barrel. January's sales were based on an average price of \$109.081 per barrel and yielded \$7.061 billion.

Porsche recalling 1,200 sports cars for fuel leaks

DETROIT (AP)—Porsche is recalling more than 1,200 of its 911 Carrera S sports cars because a fuel line can come loose and cause a fire. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said on its website Saturday that the line can come apart at a connection and leak fuel. The agency says that could cause loss of power and a crash, or it could cause a fire. Porsche says it doesn't know of any fires or accidents. The 2012 cars have a starting price of more than \$96,000.

Economists see higher taxes as way to cut deficit

NEW YORK (AP)—Economists say a combination of higher taxes and lower spending is the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit.

sidered along with less spending to reduce the federal budget deficit.

Over 70 percent want tax reform. The economists were evenly split between those who oppose or support the so-called "Buffett rule," named for billionaire Warren Buffett, under which the average tax rate for families earning over \$1 million would be set at a minimum of 30 percent. More than two-thirds favored the extension of payroll tax cuts through 2012.

The economists were also polled on other hot-button topics, including the Keystone oil pipeline and new regulations like the Volcker rule that affects banks.

An overwhelming majority of economists, or 83 percent, believe the Keystone pipeline should be built. The State Department, backed by President Barack Obama, rejected one proposal to build the pipeline that would carry tar sands oil from Canada to refineries in Texas. The project drew opposition from environmentalists, while supporters say it will create over 1,000 jobs.

About two-thirds of the economists in the NABE survey think that banks should not be allowed to trade with their own money to bet on financial markets. The new rule, named after former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, was included in the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act in an effort to restrict risky trading by banks.

In an election year, the growing U.S. federal deficit has drawn heightened partisan debate in Congress over spending and taxes with not much resolution in sight. The deficit is on pace to exceed \$1 trillion for the fourth straight year. The gap worsened during the Great Recession when tax revenues plummeted after millions of people lost their jobs and corporate profits fell.

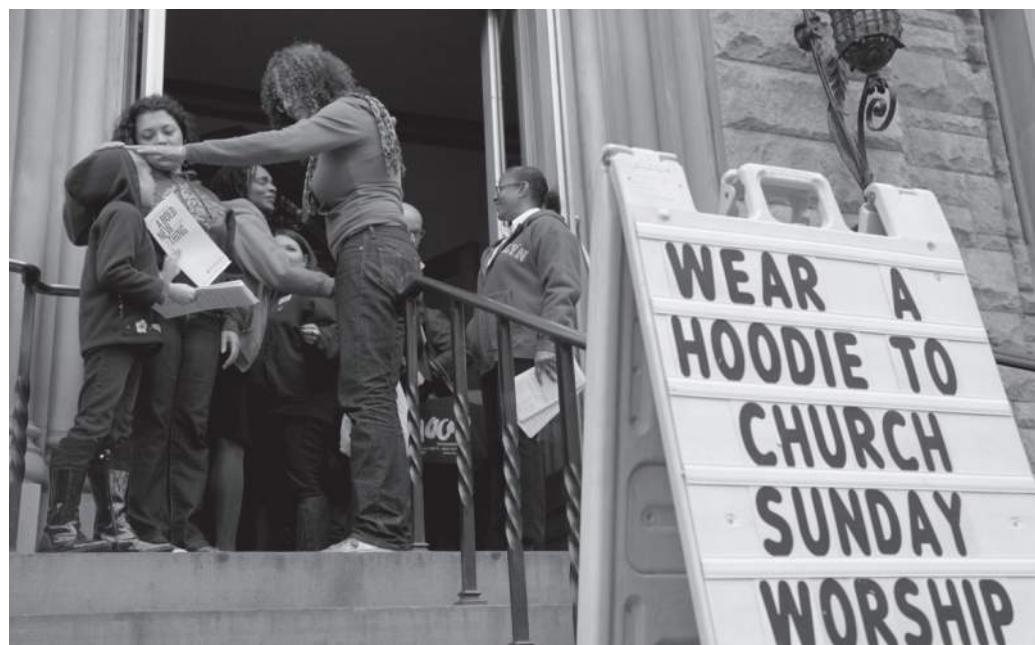
An overwhelming majority in the NABE poll—87 percent—said higher taxes should be con-

Nation

Congregants wear hoodies, remember Trayvon Martin

EATONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Wearing hooded sweatshirts similar to the one that Trayvon Martin wore on the night he was killed, many preachers and worshippers echoed calls for justice Sunday in the shooting death of an unarmed black teenager in Florida last month.

The one-month anniversary of Martin's death is Monday. He was shot while wearing a "hoodie" as he walked home on a rainy night in a gated community. The neighborhood watch volunteer who shot him, 28-year-old George Zimmerman, is the son of a white father and Hispanic mother, and the demands to charge him in Martin's slaying have grown ever louder. He had called police to report the hooded figure as suspicious; the 17-year-old Martin was carrying a bag of Skittles and a can



Congregants arrive at Middle Collegiate Church in New York, Sunday, March 25, 2012. Church-goers were invited to wear hoodies to services to show their support for justice in the case of Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager who was wearing a hoodie on the night he was killed by a neighborhood watch captain in Florida. AP

of iced tea, talking to his girlfriend on his cellphone.

In African-American and other religious centers from Florida to Atlanta, New York and Chicago, messages from pulpits couldn't help but touch on a seemingly avoidable tragedy that continues to be rife with more questions than answers. But while the call continued for the arrest of Zimmerman, there were also pleas

to use the incident to spark a larger movement.

"How do we turn pain into power?" the Rev. Jesse Jackson asked a standing-room only congregation of hundreds while preaching at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Eatonville, Fla., about 20 miles from the site of the Sanford shooting. "How do we go from a moment to a movement that curries favor?"

Jackson preached a sermon

entitled "The Substance of Things Hoped For." He called for Martin's "martyr" death to be used as an opportunity to revive the Civil Rights Commission and draw attention to long-standing issues. Very young children and teens sat in the choir behind him.

"The blood of the innocent has power," Jackson said to shouts of "Amen" and loud clapping.

Jackson invoked the names

of Emmett Till, the 14-year-old boy bludgeoned and shot to death in Mississippi in 1955 for supposedly whistling at a white woman, and slain civil rights figures Medgar Evers and Martin Luther King, Jr.

"There's power in the blood of Emmett Till! There's power in the blood of Medgar Evers! There's power in the blood of Dr. King!" declared the 70-year-old Jackson, who marched with King.

Jackson made a direct plea to change the "Stand Your Ground" self-defense law that many believe authorities in Florida used to avoid arresting him.

Amid the outcry over the lack of charges against Zimmerman, the Sanford police chief and state's attorney in the case have both stepped aside. The U.S. Justice Department has opened a civil rights probe into the shooting, and a grand jury is scheduled to meet April 10 to consider evidence in the case.

Zimmerman's attorney has said he believes the case falls under Florida's stand-your-ground law, which dictates that a person has the right to stand his or her ground and "meet force with force" if attacked. Attorney Craig Sonner has said Zimmerman is not a racist.

After Jackson's sermon, con-

gregants said the civil rights activist's message resonated.

"This kind of activism never stopped in the church, that's what they do for us in the black community," said 34-year-old Nacia Bradley of Orlando. "That's what they're here to do."

Black churches have long served as catalysts for change and were instrumental during the civil rights era.

"The activism (in the church) is bigger and better than ever," said Kenneth Byers, 47, of Orlando. "Everything Rev. Jackson said was right on time."

At Chicago's St. Sabina Catholic Church, a predominantly black congregation, the Rev. Michael Pfleger wore the hood of his robe over his head while celebrating Mass. Pfleger, who is white, has long spoken out against violence.

During Mass, one congregant held a sign reading, "We are all Trayvon Martin."

In New York City, Middle Collegiate Church pastor Jacqueline Lewis said the church must assume both a spiritual and political role to end "the epidemic" of racism. She encouraged her congregants to send packages of Skittles to Sanford police, sign an online petition and attend an April conference on building multiracial congregations.

Wife defends soldier accused in Afghanistan rampage

SEATAC, Wash. (AP)—The wife of a U.S. soldier accused of killing 17 Afghan villagers defended her husband in an interview with NBC's Today show, saying she finds the charges "unbelievable."

Karilyn Bales told Matt Lauer in comments set to air Monday that her husband, Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, is "very brave, very courageous."

The Washington state woman said her husband joined the Army after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, to "protect his family, friends and country. He wanted to do his part."

Officials say Staff Sgt. Bales wandered off base in southern Afghanistan earlier this month and killed eight Afghan adults and nine children.

The wife of the Joint Base Lewis-McChord soldier said the accusations are "unbelievable to me."

"He loves children, he's like a big kid himself," she said. "I have no idea what happened, but he would not ... he loves children, and he would not do that."

He was formally charged Friday with 17 counts of premeditated murder and other crimes.

U.S. investigators have said

they believe Bales killed in two episodes, returning to his base after the first attack and later slipping away to kill again. He is reported to have surrendered without a struggle.

The 38-year-old married father of two from Lake Tapps, Wash., is being held at a U.S. military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Karilyn Bales has spoken to her husband by telephone twice since he was detained. The soldier called his wife first from overseas shortly after massacre, and then last week from Fort Leavenworth where

the two talked about family matters and "reaffirmed their love for each other," said her attorney, Lance Rosen.

The couple has two young children, a girl named Quincy and a boy named Bobby.

Bales was on his fourth tour of duty in a war zone, having served three tours in Iraq, where he suffered a head injury and a foot injury. His civilian attorney, John Henry Browne, had said the soldier and his family had thought he was done fighting.

The family has set up a defense fund to help pay for Bales' legal fees.

The Bales family had a Seattle-area home condemned, struggled to make payments on another and failed to get a promotion a year ago. Karilyn Bales put the family's Lake Tapps, Wash., home up for sale days before the rampage.

The youngest of five brothers, Bales grew up in the working class Cincinnati suburb of Norwood, Ohio, and has been described as cheerful, all around good guy. He joined the Army two months after 9/11, after a Florida investment business failed and after he had worked with a string of securities operations.

where Cheney's treatment was a hot topic.

Patients can get on more than one transplant list if they can afford the medical tests that each center requires to ensure eligibility, and can afford to fly there on short notice if an organ becomes available. For example, the late Apple chief Steve Jobs was on a transplant list in Tennessee and received a new liver at a hospital there in 2009 even though he lived in California.

That's not done nearly as often with hearts as it is for livers or kidneys, said Dr. Samer Najjar, heart transplant chief at MedStar Washington Hospital Center. Each transplant center decides for itself how old a patient it will accept, he said.

Dick Cheney's transplant reopens debate about age

CHICAGO (AP)—Doctors say it is unlikely that former Vice President Dick Cheney got special treatment when he was given a new heart at age 71 that thousands of younger people also were in line to receive.

Still, his case reopens debate about whether rules should be changed to favor youth over age in giving out scarce organs. As it stands now, time on the waiting list, medical need and where you live determine the odds of scoring a new heart—not how many years you'll live to make use of it.

"The ethical issues are not that he had a transplant, but who didn't?" Dr. Eric Topol, a car-

diologist at Scripps Health in La Jolla, Calif., wrote on Twitter.

Cheney received the transplant Saturday at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Va., the same

place where he received an implanted heart pump that has kept him alive since July 2010. It appears he went on the transplant wait list around that time, 20 months ago.

He had severe congestive heart failure and had suffered five heart attacks over the past 25 years. Cheney has had countless procedures to keep him



Cheney

going—bypasses, artery-opening angioplasty, pacemakers and surgery on his legs. Yet he must have had a healthy liver and kidneys to qualify for a new heart, doctors said.

"We have done several patients hovering around age 70" although that's about "the upper limit" for a transplant, said Dr. Mariell Jessup, a University of Pennsylvania heart failure specialist and American Heart Association spokeswoman. "The fact he waited such a long time shows he didn't get any favors."

More than 3,100 Americans

Asia

Obama urges N. Korea to 'pursue peace'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—In a direct challenge to North Korean leaders, President Barack Obama implored them “to have the courage to pursue peace” while warning of the wrath of the world if they don’t. Failure, he said Monday, would mean a future without dignity, respect or hope for its people.

Obama stood by his pledge for a globe without nuclear weapons, declaring flatly that the United States has more than it needs and can cut its arsenal without weakening its security or that of its allies. That assessment put him on a collision course with congressional Republicans who say any significant cuts would undermine the U.S. ability to deter aggression.

As Obama spoke of peace in the midst of an international nuclear summit, tensions rose in the Korean peninsula. Seoul warned it might shoot down a North Korean rocket carrying a satellite if it violates South Korean territory. The United States maintains the launch amounts to a test of North Korea’s rocketry.

In unusually personal terms, Obama said he spoke of his wish for further nuclear reductions as the president of the only nation ever to use nuclear weapons, as a commander whose country’s nuclear codes are never far from his side, and as a protective father eager to erase the threat of nuclear annihilation.

Obama also met on the sidelines of the summit with outgoing Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. Later he planned to sit down with Chinese President Hu Jintao, whom he was expected to press for help in dealing with North Korea.

Still, Obama aimed his most stern remarks to North Korea’s leaders, saying the internationally isolated country needs to change its ways because continuing down the same path will lead to “more broken dreams” and “more isolation.” His blunt remarks came a day after he visited the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea and described the experience as akin to witnessing a “time warp” of despair.

“By now it should be clear,” he said. “Your provocations and pursuit of nuclear weapons have not achieved

the security you seek, they have undermined it. Instead of the dignity you desire, you are more isolated.”

Speaking at Hankuk University, Obama said that the international community has made progress in reducing the threat of nuclear material but says “we’re under no illusions.”

“Even as we have more work to do, we can already say with confidence that we have more nuclear weapons than we need,” he said. “I firmly believe that we can ensure the security of the United States and our allies, maintain a strong deterrent against any threat, and still pursue further reductions in our nuclear arsenal.”

Obama also reiterated his warning to Iran, which the U.S. and its allies contend is defying its international obligations by pursuing an illicit nuclear program. Obama said he would discuss Iran in meetings later in the day with the leaders of Russia and China.

“Iran’s leaders must understand that there is no escaping the choice before it. Iran must act with the seriousness and sense of urgency that this moment demands,” Obama said. “Iran must meet its obligations.”

Facing down Iran and North Korea, Obama said a “new international norm” was emerging to deal with the two nations’ intransigence. “Treaties are binding. Rules will be enforced. And violations will have consequences,” Obama said. “Because we refuse to consign ourselves to a future where more and more regimes possess the world’s most deadly weapons.”

Obama said the U.S. was also moving forward with Russia to eliminate enough plutonium for about 17,000 nuclear weapons and turn it into electricity. And he heralded an earlier agreement with Russia to reduce nuclear arsenals under the New START Treaty, which Obama called “the most comprehensive arms control agreement in nearly two decades.”

“When we’re done, we’ll have cut American and Russian deployed nuclear warheads to their lowest levels since the 1950s,” he said.

Obama also prodded Russia in a new way, saying he would seek discussions



with Moscow on an unprecedented front: reducing not only strategic nuclear warheads, but also tactical weapons and warheads in reserve. He said he planned to discuss that proposition with Putin when they meet in May.

Obama was to meet later Monday with outgoing Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. Former leader Vladimir Putin returns to the presidency later this spring after winning an election held earlier this year.

President Barack Obama looks through binoculars to see North Korea from Observation Post Ouellette in the Demilitarized Zone, the tense military border between the two Koreas, in Panmunjom, South Korea, Sunday, March 25, 2012. AP

SKorea warns it might shoot down NKorean rocket

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Seoul warned Monday that it might shoot down a North Korean rocket if it strays into South Korean territory, as worries about what Washington calls a long-range missile test overshadowed an international nuclear security summit.

Nearly 60 world leaders gathered Monday in Seoul to talk about ways to keep nuclear material out of the hands of terrorists. But North Korea has dominated attention in Northeast Asia since announcing earlier this month that it would send a satellite into space aboard a long-range rocket.

North Korea calls the launch part of its peaceful space program and says a new southerly flight path is meant to avoid other countries; previous rockets have been fired over Japan. Washington and Seoul, however, say the multistage rocket is meant to test delivery systems for long-range missiles that could be mounted with nuclear weapons.

“We are studying measures such as tracking and shooting down (parts) of a North Korean missile in case they stray out of their normal trajectory” and violate South Korean territory, said Yoon Won-shik, a vice spokesman at the Defense Ministry.

“We cannot help viewing (the

launch) as a very reckless, provocative act” that undermines peace on the Korean peninsula, he said.

The South Korean and U.S. militaries know that North Korea has moved the main body of the rocket into a building at a site near the village of Tongchang-ri in North Phyongan province and that it is making preparations for a launch, Yoon said. He said the two allies’ militaries are closely monitoring the situation, but he didn’t elaborate on the North’s preparations.

The Tongchang-ri launch site is about 35 miles (50 kilometers) from the Chinese border city of Dandong, across the Yalu River from North Korea. Analysts describe it as a new, more sophisticated site that would allow the North to fire the rocket from the west coast to avoid sending it over other countries.

President Barack Obama and South Korean President Lee Myung-bak urged North Korea in a joint news conference Sunday to immediately stop its launch plans, warning they would deal sternly with any provocation. Obama said the move would jeopardize a deal settled last month in which the U.S. would ship food aid to the North in exchange for a nuclear freeze.

The launch preparations come as

North Koreans and new leader Kim Jong Un mark 100 days since the death of Kim’s father, Kim Jong Il.

North Korea says its launch is set for sometime around celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the April 15 birth of late President Kim Il Sung, who was Kim Jong Il’s father and the current leader’s grandfather.

Obama is also pressuring China to use its influence to press North Korea to put off the launch.

A Chinese government-backed disarmament expert said Monday that the launch shouldn’t be allowed to dominate discussions at the summit, in an apparent bid to divert pressure on Beijing to convince Pyongyang to abandon its plans.

“I think North Korea did this to overshadow our talks about nuclear security. We shouldn’t fall for their trick,” said China Arms Control and Disarmament Association head Li Hong.

China is North Korea’s biggest source of diplomatic support and economic assistance, although China says its leverage over Pyongyang is limited by the government’s unpredictable nature and Beijing’s overriding concern for stability along its northeastern border.

Myanmar exiles test government’s promise of change

BANGKOK (AP)—For years, Myanmar’s former military regime regarded Aye Chan Naing as an enemy of the state, jailing 17 of his reporters and denouncing the exiled news organization he leads as a producer of “killer broadcasts” and a threat to national security.

But when he arrived back home for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century, he was neither arrested nor harassed. Immigration police simply asked who he worked for, then smiled and waved him through.

The director of the Norway-based Democratic Voice of Burma, which has broadcast independent news for two decades into one of the world’s most oppressed nations, is part of a trickle of exiles spanning the globe who have begun to see for themselves if Myanmar’s campaign of reforms is real.

The answer to that question is mixed, and the vast majority of those

abroad, including more than half a million refugees camped along the border with Thailand and elsewhere, are staying put for now. But Aye Chan’s visit—he ended a five-day trip earlier this month after the government issued him a brief visa—revealed something he found surprising among friends, family, even government officials—a sliver of hope.

“It’s something I haven’t really seen in the last 20 years,” Aye Chan told The Associated Press in an interview from Oslo, where he has lived for two decades. “Of course there’s still a lot of skepticism. People cannot forget the past.”

But “there’s been a clear change. People are speaking out freely, going to meet whoever they want without getting followed or arrested or punished for it,” he said.

To be sure, Myanmar needs its ex-

ASIA BRIEFS

Philippine massacre suspect arraigned for fraud

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A powerful Filipino clan leader who is a suspect in the 2009 massacre of 57 people has pleaded not guilty to charges of rigging elections to favor former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s allies. Andal Ampatuan Sr. has been on trial for murder and on Monday was arraigned on a separate charge of electoral sabotage. Arroyo has pleaded not guilty to the same electoral charge. The court also entered a not guilty plea for former Philippine elections chief Benjamin Abalos. One of the most feared politicians in the country, Ampatuan, his three sons and nearly 100 gunmen are accused of killing at least 57 people, including 32 journalists, who traveled in a convoy en route to register the candidacy of a political rival of the Ampatuans.

Taliban warn Pakistan lawmakers over NATO supplies

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—The Taliban on Sunday threatened to attack Pakistani lawmakers and their families if they support allowing NATO to resume shipping supplies through the country to troops in neighboring Afghanistan. Pakistan closed its Afghan border crossings to NATO in November in retaliation for American airstrikes that accidentally killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. Pakistan’s parliament is scheduled to begin debate Monday on a revised relationship with the U.S. that could lead to the border being reopened. Pakistani Taliban spokesman Ahsanullah Ahsan accused Pakistani officials of acting like slaves for the U.S. and said allowing NATO supplies to resume would be “shameful and unacceptable.”

iles back. Decades of harsh military dictatorship in the country also known as Burma transformed one of Asia’s most prosperous nations into one of its poorest. Many of the country’s best and brightest fled, part of a so-called brain drain that included an army of doctors, engineers, politicians and journalists. Several million economic migrants are also working in Thailand, Malaysia and other nearby countries.

A nominally civilian government took office a year ago, and since then it has freed hundreds of political prisoners, lifted restrictions on opposition parties, signed truces with rebel groups and enacted other major reforms.

Last August, President Thein Sein issued a call for the diaspora to return. One of his top advisers later clarified that political dissidents could also come back, and would not be arrested if they did so.

World

Quake hits central Chile; no reports of deaths



AP
People gather outside a supermarket after an earthquake was felt in Talca, Chile, Sunday, March 25, 2012. A magnitude-7.2 earthquake has struck just off the coast of central Chile, prompting an emergency evacuation order for people living near the ocean in case it spawns a tsunami.

French gunman's brother charged, denies role

PARIS (AP)—A Frenchman suspected of helping his brother plot attacks against Jewish schoolchildren and paratroopers was handed preliminary murder and terrorism charges Sunday.

But Abdelkader Merah denied any role in the attacks. Investigators looking into France's worst terror attacks in years believe Merah helped his brother Mohamed prepare the killings, and are investigating whether they were linked to an international network of extremists or worked on their own.

Abdelkader's lawyer said he feels like "a scapegoat."

"No one knew anything" about what Mohamed was

plotting, lawyer Anne-Sophie Laguens told reporters in Paris. She dismissed reports that Abdelkader had praised his brother's attacks. "He was never proud of those actions."

Mohamed Merah, 23, claimed responsibility for killing three Jewish schoolchildren, a rabbi and three paratroopers earlier this month. After a 32-hour standoff with police, he died Thursday in a hail of gunfire as he jumped out a window of his apartment in the southern city of Toulouse.

Since then, attention has focused on his older brother Abdelkader Merah, who was handed preliminary charges on Sunday of complicity to murder

and theft, and involvement in a terrorist enterprise, prosecutors said. Detained last week, he will remain in custody pending further investigation.

Preliminary charges under French law mean there is strong reason to believe a crime was committed, but allow magistrates more time to investigate.

Authorities suspect Abdelkader had a role in acquiring his younger brother's arsenal and financing his trips to Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Middle East. Mohamed Merah claimed allegiance to al-Qaida and told police he traveled to Afghanistan and Pakistan for training.

Pope Benedict wins over Mexico; next stop Cuba

his predecessor.

"Some young people rejected the pope, saying he has an angry face. But now they see him like a grandfather," said Cristian Roberto Cerdá Reynoso, 17, a seminarian from Leon who attended Benedict's Sunday Mass. "I see the youth filled with excitement and enthusiasm."

Benedict charmed the crowd at Mass by donning a sombrero for his papemobile tour through the estimated 350,000 people. He put on another one later Sunday night when he was serenaded by a mariachi band as he returned to the school where he has been staying.

"We saw a lot of happiness in his face. We are used to seeing him with a harder appearance, but this time he looked happier, smiling," said Esther Villegas, a 36-year-old cosmetics vendor. "A lot of people didn't care for him enough before, but now he has won us over."

heading to Havana, where he will meet with Cuban President Raul Castro—and presumably his brother Fidel.

Benedict's three-day stay in Cuba will of course spark comparisons to Pope John Paul II's historic 1998 tour, when Fidel Castro shed his army fatigues for a suit and tie to greet the pope at Havana's airport and where John Paul uttered the now famous words: "May Cuba, with all its magnificent potential, open itself up to the world, and may the world open itself up to Cuba."

Those comparisons were also evident in Mexico, which had claimed John Paul as its own during his five visits over a nearly 27-year pontificate. But with his first visit to Mexico, Benedict appeared to lay to rest the impression that he is a distant, cold pontiff who can never compare to the charisma and personal connection forged by

The pope will celebrate an open-air Mass Monday evening in Santiago's main plaza then pray at the sanctuary housing the statue Tuesday before

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—A magnitude-7.1 earthquake struck central Chile Sunday night, the strongest and longest that many people said they had felt since a huge quake devastated the area two years ago. Some people were injured by falling ceiling material, but there were no reports of major damage or deaths due to quake-related accidents.

The quake struck at 7:30 p.m. about 16 miles (27 kilometers) north-northwest of Talca, a city of more than 200,000 people where residents said the shaking lasted about a minute.

Buildings swayed in Chile's capital 136 miles (219 kilometers) to the north, and people living along a 480-mile (770-kilometer) stretch of Chile's central coast were briefly warned to head for higher ground.

Residents were particularly alarmed in Constitucion, where much of the coastal downtown at the mouth of a river was obliterated by the tsunami caused by the 8.8-magnitude quake in 2010.

Panic also struck in Santiago and other cities, with people running out of skyscrapers, and many neighborhoods were left

partly or totally without electrical power. Phone service collapsed due to heavy traffic.

"There are some injuries but nothing serious," said Interior Minister Rodrigo Hinzpeter, who was serving as acting president while Sebastian Pinera is on tour in Asia.

Hinzpeter said authorities were conducting a thorough survey of the affected regions to look for damage.

The Chilean navy's hydrographic and oceanographic service and the national emergency office called off a tsunami warning for most of the central coast after an analysis showed the quake wasn't the type to provoke killer waves.

The alert was restored for the area closest to the epicenter after police noticed the ocean had retreated about 130 feet (40 meters) from the shore in the towns of Illoca and Duao. A sharp out-surge of surf sometimes is followed by a tsunami.

Many coastal residents were staying away from the shore in any case, remembering how the government said there would be no tsunami just before huge waves struck after the 2010 quake,

killing 156 of the 524 victims of that disaster.

With aftershocks rattled the region, many people living inland didn't want to go back inside their homes, either.

In Parral, about 230 miles (370 kilometers) south of the capital, Mayor Israel Urrutia said a 74-year-old woman died of a heart attack during the quake, and he blamed it on the shaking.

State television reported that parts of the ceiling fell from a church in Maipu, west of Santiago, slightly injuring some parishioners. Similar problems were reported with the roof of a shopping mall in La Florida, south of the capital.

State copper giant Codelco said its mines were functioning normally.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake occurred 19 miles (30 kilometers) deep.

It was the second significant quake in as many days for central Chile, where people were shaken awake Saturday morning by a 5.1-magnitude tremor that caused no major damage or injuries even though its epicenter was in metropolitan Santiago.

Sources: Rebels, army negotiate in northern Mali

NIAMEY, Niger (AP)—Rebels taking advantage of a coup are negotiating with soldiers for a peaceful resolution in Mali's strategic northern garrison town of Kidal, according to representatives of the Sahara's nomadic Tuareg people.

Sources in Mali and neighboring Niger said Monday the rebels hope to take Kidal without a fight. The sources asked not to be named because the situation is dangerous.

Kidal would be a major prize for the rebels, who relaunched their decades-old fight in mid-January, led by battle-hardened officers and troops who fought for Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi and returned home heavily armed. Kidal is one of two major northern towns that failed to fall in two previous Tuareg rebellions in the 1990s and 2000s.

It's not known how many civilians remain in the town of about 26,000 where soldiers are living with their families.

A source in Niger's government said a column of rebels also headed Sunday for the main northern city of Gao, intent on pressing their advantage to the government's main stronghold in northern Mali. Gao is about 300 kilometers (190 miles) south of Kidal.

The rebels have profited from the disarray in Mali's military command following Wednesday's coup by soldiers led by

Mali

The Tuaregs, a nomadic people, have risen up against the government in Mali several times since the country's independence from France in 1960.

At a glance

Population 14.5 million

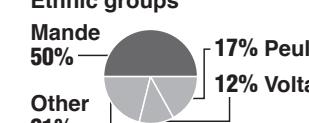
GDP per capita \$1,300

Industry Africa's third-largest gold miner

Religion



Ethnic groups



Source: ESRI, CIA World Factbook, Reuters Graphic: Melina Yingling



Mounting troubles

Northern rebellion

- 2011 uprising in Libya sent thousands of nomadic Tuareg into Mali
- Malian troops complained they did not have enough arms to counter northern rebellion
- Dozens have been killed; nearly 200,000 civilians have fled their home

March 22 Renegade soldiers announce they have seized power in protest of the government's failure to quell rebellion

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a middle-ranking U.S.-trained officer. Coup leader Capt. Amadou Sanogo has said he wants to negotiate with the rebels, but he also has promised to give the army what it needs to halt the insurgency.

Disgruntled soldiers staged Wednesday's coup charging the government was not giving troops the arms, ammunition and food supplies needed to defend themselves and fight the rebels. Troops short of ammunition and morale have fled several smaller towns against the rebel advance in recent weeks.

Condemnation from around the world has not deterred the mutinous soldiers.

The European Union, Canada, the World Bank and the African Development Bank all have cut aid, and the United States is threatening to cut all but humanitarian aid.

Mali is at the heart of a Western-backed initiative to fight al-Qaida's thriving African wing, which is funded from the proceeds of drugs, arms trafficking and hostage-taking operations in Tuareg territory in the Sahara desert.

Focus

SAN DIEGO (AP)—It is still not known if the soldier accused of killing 17 Afghans was ever diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder—but even if he had been, that alone would not have prevented him from being sent back to war.

The Army diagnosed 76,176 soldiers with PTSD between 2000 and 2011. Of those, 65,236 soldiers were diagnosed at some stage of their deployment.

Many returned to the battlefield after mental health providers determined their treatment worked and their symptoms had gone into remission, Army officials and mental health professionals who treat troops say. The Army does not track the exact number in combat diagnosed with PTSD nor those who are in combat and taking medicine for PTSD.

The case of Sgt. Robert Bales has sparked debate about whether the Army failed in detecting a soldier's mental instability or pushed him too far. The Army is reviewing all its mental health programs and its screening process in light of the March 11 shooting spree in two slumbering Afghan villages that killed families, including nine children.

For some Americans, Bales is the epitome of a soldier afflicted by war's psychological wounds, pushed by the Army beyond his limits.

Bales' attorney says he does not know if his client suffered from PTSD but his initial statements appear to be building a possible defense around the argument that the horrific crime was the result of a 10-year military veteran sent back to a war zone for a fourth time after being traumatized.

Mental health professionals say it's reasonable to consider PTSD but it was likely not the sole factor that sent the 38-year-old father from Washington state over the edge. Still, there is much that is not known about the psychological wounds of war and how they can manifest themselves, and even less is known about the impact of multiple deployments.

Military officials say they have to rely on their mental health experts to decide whether someone is mentally fit to go back into war, and they cannot make a blanket policy of not redeploying troops diagnosed with PTSD. The provider makes a recommendation, but the ultimate decision to deploy a soldier rests with the unit commander.

Army Secretary John McHugh told Congress this week that "we have in the military writ large over 50,000 folks in uniform who have had at least four deployments." Some have served double-digit deployments, where they witnessed traumatic events.

"People do not understand that you can be treated for PTSD," said Dr. Heidi Kraft, who cared for Marines in Iraq in 2004 as a Navy combat psychologist. "It's a matter of turn-

Army: PTSD treatable; some diagnosed RETURN TO WAR

By JULIE WATSON

Associated Press



AP
In this Aug. 23, 2011, file photo provided by the Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System, Sgt. Robert Bales takes part in exercises at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

ing a traumatic memory into just that—a memory rather than something that haunts you.

"You can't say the person hasn't live through trauma, but symptoms can go completely into remission, where a person is very functional and in fact emerges from treatment better or more resilient. There is the misconception out there that if you have this diagnosis, you will always be disabled, and that's just not true."

It also depends on the severity of the PTSD, which can last anywhere from months to years.

Some troops treated for PTSD yearn to return to the battlefield where they feel more comfortable surrounded by their fellow troops and on a mission than in the unsettling quiet of their home life, mental health professionals say.

Officials say, however, that no test is considered diagnostically definitive for mental illness in general or PTSD in particular.

Critics say the Army has a history of bandaging the problem and rushing troops back into combat by loading them up on prescription drugs. Military

courts also do not recognize PTSD as a legitimate defense, said attorney Geoffrey Nathan, who has represented a number of court-martialed troops.

"They're still in a state of denial as to what combat soldiers go through in the field of battle," Nathan said.

The Army says it's committed to the health of the force, pointing out it has invested \$710 million in behavioral health care and doubled the number of mental health workers since 2007.

"The Army has a robust policy to return soldiers who are fit for duty to combat units as soon as possible," said Army spokesman George Wright. "If a soldier has a broken leg, and he is healed, and fully capable of conducting the mission, he's eligible to return to duty. It's the same when qualified medical doctors, psychologists or psychiatrists determine a soldier suffering from a behavioral health disorder is healed. If he displays the signs that he's fully capable of accomplishing the mission as a soldier, he'll be returned to duty."

Treatment can result in cure for some patients with PTSD, but more often results in im-

provement in symptoms and functioning, not a complete cure, according to the Army. PTSD can recur after treatment on exposure to other traumatic events or stressors. According to some studies, up to 80 percent of people with PTSD also suffer from another psychiatric disorder, making it challenging to make an accurate diagnosis.

The Army says its doctors look at a soldier's current clin-

ical condition and rely heavily on the soldier telling the provider whether symptoms have subsided. The Army says it recognizes that deploying a soldier who is not medically ready puts both the individual and unit at risk.

PTSD is a condition that results from experiencing or seeing a traumatic event, whether it's being in a car crash or witnessing a battlefield casualty.

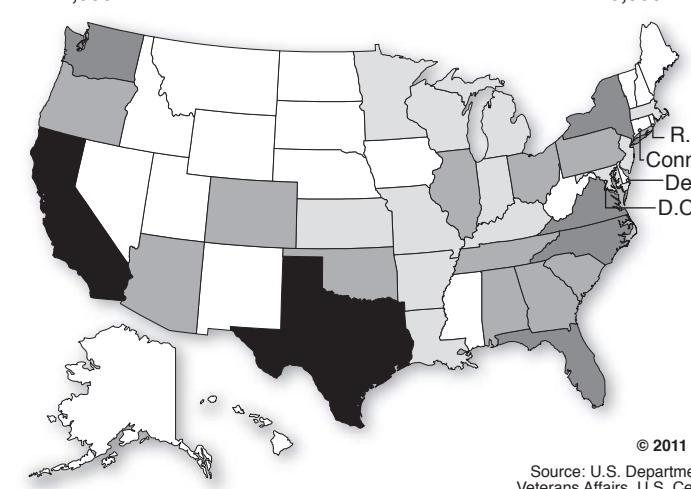
War's mental scars linger

Thousands of veterans who have returned from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and/or traumatic brain injury. Treating vets for these conditions is expected to cost hundreds of billions of dollars in coming decades.

Number of disabled Iraq/Afghanistan veterans with PTSD

As of January 2011

Less than 1,000 1,000-2,000 2,001-3,000 3,001-5,000 More than 5,000



Browne said a fellow soldier's leg had been blown off days before the rampage and Bales had seen the wounds. A U.S. defense official said it is likely that a soldier from Bales' unit suffered a leg wound a day or two before the March 11 shootings, but military officials have no evidence that this has any connection to the massacre.

Bales also remembers very little or nothing from the time the military believes he went on the rampage, according to his attorney.

Not remembering a traumatic event or avoiding the memory is a classic symptom of PTSD, along with recurrent nightmares, flashbacks, irritability and feeling distant from other people.

But mental health experts believe other factors were at play. Bales' personal history shows he had a past assault case

involving a casino bouncer that required anger management classes. Another assault allegation involved a woman and her boyfriend outside a bowling alley but ultimately didn't result in charges. He also had financial troubles.

Those who suffer from PTSD are prone to acting out, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for PTSD. But the violent behavior is usually against family members or fellow troops, not strangers, mental health professionals say.

Dr. Harry Croft, a San Antonio, Texas, psychiatrist who has diagnosed 7,000 veterans with PTSD for the Veterans Affairs Department and written the book "I Always Sit With My Back to The Wall" about PTSD said the case has set back years of work to erase the perception that veterans are walking time bombs who can go off without warning. Veteran advocates point to one tabloid headline labeling the then-unidentified suspect "Sergeant Psycho."

That stereotype, they say, has caused employers to shy away from hiring veterans returning from war and steered singles away from getting involved in relationships with them.

"Even the most severe cases of PTSD alone would not have caused such a heinous act like this," Croft said. "Something else was definitely going on, most probably severe depression, psychosis, substance abuse or he received some terrible news from home that pushed him over the edge."

Overdrive

Nissan NV van makes driver comfortable

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

For decades, Detroit automakers have gone unchallenged in a particularly unglamorous segment of the vehicle market: full-size cargo vans. All-wheel drive is not offered.

Nissan sent a 2500 V-6 Standard Roof in SV trim for evaluation.

Given the vehicle's curb weight, the V-6 is adequate to get the job done, although I never fully loaded the van. Mileage is predictably dreadful (albeit good for a cargo van): 11-12 around town, 18 on the highway. The EPA doesn't rate the NV for mileage as its gross vehicle weight is 50 pounds more than the agency's 8500-pound limit.

Ride and handling are typical of the breed. Minor bumps are filtered out, but most road shocks register through the suspension and steering wheel, although body motions seem well-controlled. Road, wind and tire noise are pronounced, as if someone has left a window open. Given this is a big metal box without much sound insulation, that's little surprise.

Once adjusted to its enormous size, the NV 2500 doesn't feel unmanageable, with the exception of parking lots, where backing

up calls for care. Thankfully, there's a much-needed backup camera to aid in such maneuvers, even if the screen is a little small.

The NV has a commanding driving position that gives you a clear view of traffic.

How clear?

You look over the roofs of Jeep Grand Cherokees and Cadillac Escalades.

The two bucket seats are wide, soft, comfortable and surprisingly supportive. The power driver's seat should have a little more seat travel considering lack of rear seats. The steering wheel tilts, but doesn't telescope.

The NV's instrument panel materials seem on par with the rest of this class; lots of hard plastic that suggests durability over high cost. The interior's gray color is drab.

NUTS & BOLTS

2012 Nissan NV:

- Engine: 4.0-liter DOHC V-6
- Wheelbase: 146.1 inches
- Length: 240.6 inches
- Weight: 5,853 pounds
- Cargo capacity: 234.1 cubic feet
- Payload: 2,535 pounds
- Towing capacity: 7,000 pounds
- EPA rating: Not rated
- Fuel consumption: 14 mpg
- Fuel type: Regular
- Base price, base model: \$25,930 (including destination charge)
- Base price, test model: \$27,190
- As tested: \$29,575

There are two engines of



The 2012 NV is Nissan's first production commercial vehicle in the United States.

UNDER THE HOOD

Modern transmissions aid shifting

By BRAD BERGHOULD
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: Thank you for the column on cars with manual transmissions and clutch use. My father never ever had a vehicle with an automatic transmission. His view of the world was that anybody who had to drive a car with an automatic transmission shouldn't be allowed on the road. I learned to drive on a 1936 Ford 5 window coupe with, of course, a manual tranny. In high school, it was a big deal to "double clutch" and smoothly shift back into low gear at about 20 mph with no gear grinding. No worries about stress on parts.

Now here is my question: In a manual transmission, what exactly is the "synchronizer" and how does it work? I know that in my '36 it worked in 2nd and high gears, but not low gear.—Bob Hughes

ANSWER: I received several neat messages with old car-shifting experiences such as yours. A modern manual transmission's gears are actually in constant mesh. When shifting, a brass cone clutch, or synchronizer, promptly grabs the tapered side of the next gear, bringing it to the same speed as an adjacent hub, which is splined to the output shaft. A toothed outer collar is then permitted to slide over both parts, locking them together, completing the shift. On older vehicles without this synchromesh feature, the driver would "double clutch" when shifting. The first press of the pedal assisted disengagement of one gear, and the second press, with a well-practiced dose of throttle and properly timed shifter movement, brought the two rotating parts to approximately the same speed, minimizing gear clash.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Cargo space aside, there seems to be little to recommend over its competition. But you'd be wrong.

What separates the NV from its envious competition is the pickup truck-like amenities offered. A usefully large center console bin can hold laptops and portable printers, while a small tray holds other items. There's a USB port and power point to accommodate them along with large cup holders and lots of open storage bins.

There are some demerits, however. The combined audio and navigation system's diminutive buttons and knobs are too small for a work truck where contractors could be easily wearing gloves. Inexplicably, there's a useless storage slot beneath the audio system that could be used to enlarge it.

The door locks emit a cheap clacking sound when locking. Doors close with a cheap clang. Worse, looking down from a second-story window revealed sloppy welds on the roof that were not covered up by trim.

Finally, this is one truck that won't win any beauty contests.

But the NV's beauty is its utility. Despite being big and ugly, it offers a few advantag-

es over its rivals, with enough cargo space to haul a small bungalow while providing the com-

forts found in pickup trucks. You never know. This NV might cause envy.

Flushing engine might not cut oil consumption

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: My daughter has a 2004 Monte Carlo SS with the 3.8-liter motor. It uses about two quarts of oil between 3,500-mile changes. At the last oil change, the shop wanted to flush the motor, saying it would reduce the oil consumption. Is this possible? Also, the power steering makes a rubbing sound when you turn either left or right. The same shop said this was normal for the Monte Carlo and to not worry about it.

ANSWER: The accepted standard for "normal" oil consumption is a maximum of one quart per 2,000 miles. So the oil consumption on your daughter's vehicle is high but not necessarily excessive. Depending on the engine's mileage, it's borderline. GM doesn't recommend any type of engine flushing and, of course, engine flushing isn't going to fix worn parts like valve seals, piston rings, etc.

I'd try treating the symptoms first. Adding a half-can of Sea-Foam to the oil can help free sticky oil control rings and dissolve carbon and varnish from oil residue. Using a different brand or higher-viscosity multi-weight motor oil, particularly in warm weather, may help reduce oil consumption on a higher-mileage engine. Full synthetic oils will lower oil operating temperature and may reduce consumption.



Q: I have a 1970 Volkswagen Bug with an add-on external oil cooler and 20,000 miles on a new (not rebuilt) engine. It runs cooler on multiweight oil than with straight 30-weight. But with so many varieties of oil on the market, which is best?

A: Air-cooled engines are also oil-cooled engines, so a synthetic multiweight oil would be an excellent choice to control oil temperatures.

Q: Settle an easy question: What was the old General Motors "pecking order" from least expensive to most expensive? I say it was Chevy, Pontiac, Buick, Olds, then Cadillac. My buddy says it was Chevy, Pontiac, Olds, then Buick, then Caddy.

A: That's not an easy question. Before General Motors, Ransom Oldsmobile and David

Buick were building cars before 1900. Billy Durant formed GM with the purchase of Buick in 1903 and Oldsmobile in 1909. He also added Cadillac and Oakland Motors (which became Pontiac) that same year. And finally, Chevrolet was added in 1916. By the end of the 1920s, each GM "brand" had its own marketing and identity.

I'm not sure it's possible to identify an absolute pecking order for GM vehicles, but by the late 1940s, several different automotive platforms were in production. The more expensive "C-body" was used for Cadillacs and Oldsmobiles and eventually for higher-end Buicks. The less expensive "A-body" was used for Chevrolets, Pontiacs and lower-end Oldsmobiles. Even at this stage, there was a great deal of "sharing" among GM brands.

By the late 1960s and into the 1970s, Buick, Olds and Pontiac shared many of the same platforms, so the "B-O-P" moniker applied to many chassis, engines and components. Perhaps that was an insight into today, where only Buick survives along with Chevy and Cadillac as the GM car brands.

So was it Buick, then Olds? Or Olds, then Buick? I guess it depends on which is your favorite. I lean toward Buick as the more prestigious brand. My dad drove a '41 Pontiac until the mid-1950s; then we had a succession of Buicks until he could afford a used Cadillac in the early 1960s.

There was a '68 Pontiac Catalina in there for a year or two, but he never liked the car so it was back to Cadillacs, including his last—a 1972 Sedan DeVille. In fact, I took my driver's test in our '59 Sedan DeVille, a leviathan of an automobile that made the parallel parking test a real challenge. We figured out a clever way to make sure I parked between the white lines—but that's a story for another day.

Paul Brand, author of *How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

Life&Style

Oldest US natural history museum offers rare peek

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Academy of Natural Sciences has never been one to brag.

Its 225,000 annual visitors may associate the oldest natural history museum in the U.S. solely with dioramas and dinosaurs, but behind the scenes there is groundbreaking research conducted by world-renowned scientists and an enviable collection of some 18 million specimens representing all manner of animal, vegetable and mineral.

In celebration of its bicentennial this year, the museum has finally decided that it's OK to boast a little. For what's believed to be the first time in 200 years, curators will bring the public into the labyrinthine museum's normally off-limits nooks and crannies for daily tours.

"This is a rare opportunity to get a firsthand look at some of the most stunning, and sometimes bizarre, creatures you've ever seen," said Academy president and chief executive officer George Gephart Jr. "We can't wait to open our doors and show off nature's, and the Academy's, wondrous bounty."

The Academy will highlight a different part of its collection starting with minerals in April

and ending with fossils in February 2013. Other months will focus on birds, fish, insects, mollusks, amphibians and reptiles, plants and mammals.

"We've done behind-the-scenes tours with school groups, and with donors and members, but not anything like this," said Ned Gilmore, an Academy collections manager.

Depending on the tour, visitors might see drawers filled with exotic colorful birds, cabinets holding polar bear skeletons, jars of preserved snakes, boxes of beautiful shells that when alive can kill a human, a wall of enormous elk skulls, a narwhal tusk and a mounted—and extinct—Caribbean Monk Seal.

An accompanying exhibition, "The Academy at 200: The Nature of Discovery," puts dozens of the academy's show-stopping treasures on public display—many for the first time—and highlights research that museum scientists are conducting worldwide on hot topics of climate change, biodiversity, water quality and invasive species.

The tours, exhibits and other events in the coming year aim to shift some focus from the museum's storied past to its pres-



In this Friday, March 23, 2012, photo, Gary Rosenberg, curator of mollusks, shows a recent acquisition, a 53 inch shell, the longest in the collection at the Academy of Natural Sciences Friday, March 23, 2012 in Philadelphia.

ent and future. As in the natural world, the axiom "adapt or die" applies to the Academy, which like many museums has struggled in the past decade with a shrinking endowment and greater competition for philanthropic dollars.

New initiatives include an affiliation forged last year with

Drexel University for collaborative education and research efforts and a popular lecture series on environmental issues and policy. A five-year institutional plan to be completed by June will examine additional ways to keep the museum relevant entering its third century, said Sara Hertz, vice president for strate-

gic initiatives.

Founded in 1812 by a group of naturalists seeking to advance a scholarly view of the world, the museum is like a library of life on earth with holdings of a mind-boggling size and scope. Thousands of birds, bugs, reptiles, fish, mollusks, fossils and plants are meticu-

lously catalogued and stored in jars, shelves and cabinets. Its many historic collections include President Thomas Jefferson's fossils, plants collected by explorers Lewis and Clark, and bird skins from naturalist John James Audubon.

Alongside the preserved skins and skeletons of centuries past, Academy researchers are studying avian flu in Vietnam, testing streams in Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale gas drilling region and examining oysters for environmental fallout of the Gulf oil spill. Other researchers are developing pain medicine from cone snail toxin and examining whether biofuels can be developed from the wood-digesting enzymes of ship worms.

As species continue to become extinct, the images and specimens preserved in the Academy's collections will become even more crucial, said Doug Wechsler, head of the museum's Visual Resources for Ornithology, the world's most comprehensive collection of bird photographs with 150,000 images and growing.

"There's enough here to keep us busy for a very long time," said malacology (mollusks) collections manager Paul Callomon.

Ewan McGregor: A fish happily out of water

By COLIN COVERT
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

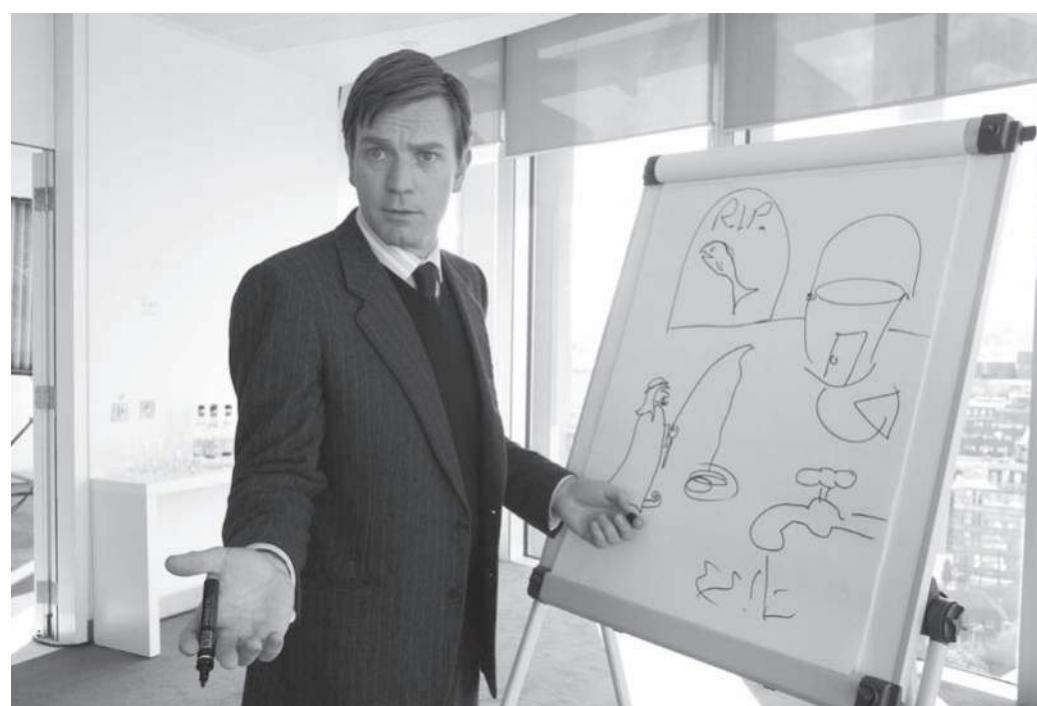
MINNEAPOLIS—It's a tribute to Ewan McGregor's great gifts that we believe someone so naturally cute, funny and knowing is stuck in a humdrum marriage and a boring desk job in the absurdist romance "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen."

But then being convincing when cast against type is the defining theme of his career. From the drugged-out antihero of "Trainspotting" to the dancing crooner of "Moulin Rouge," to the gallivanting Southern salesman in Tim Burton's "Big Fish," he always bears watching.

For his persnickety "Salmon Fishing" character, McGregor insisted on playing him as a Scotsmen, which was not the case in Paul Torday's source novel.

"It's not my own accent, far from it," McGregor, who grew up north of Edinburgh, said in a phone interview. "I wanted to do him with an uptight, full-posh accent. It seemed right for somebody who is a scientist, who's locked up with repression at the beginning. There's something very funny about his uptightness. You know if the audience doesn't care for him in the beginning they will at the end."

McGregor's career has flitted promiscuously from work with old masters like Woody Allen



Ewan McGregor (as 'Dr. Alfred Jones') stars in CBS Films' "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen."

to fledgling filmmakers like Mike Mills ("Beginners") to commercial titans (three "Star Wars" films with George Lucas). What drives him, he said, is a good tale.

"I'm not drawn to standard stories. I did 'The Ghost Writer' with Roman Polanski. I suppose that could have been just a good old-fashioned thriller," but the web of murder, political intrigue and deceit evolved to "Chinatown"-style complexity. "And that just tickled my fancy. The simple ones don't

grab me—or I don't get offered them. I don't know which way 'round it goes!"

The appeal of "Salmon Fishing" was that "it's such a silly idea. It's bonkers to take cold water salmon from Scotland and create a run for them in the desert." The romantic story line with co-star Emily Blunt also is offbeat, he said. "The two people we want to be together, one's married and the other is with someone else. I like the complexity of that, and the political satire."

To the untrained eye, he looks completely at home. Once again he's highly effective even when cast against type.

Though he spends several scenes in hip waders, rod and reel in hand, McGregor had no angling experience.

"I never really had the desire to catch a fish, which is pretty key if you're going to be a fisherman. The technique is quite difficult to do. I'm sure fly fishermen the world over will be huffing and shaking their heads at my casting."

"We've always known about the character and loved him and wished that we could do things with him, but he wasn't a character that belonged to us," said Walt Disney Co. archive director Becky Cline. "In 2006, we

Disney image displayed for first time in 40 years

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One of Walt Disney's oldest drawings is seeing the light of day after being locked away for nearly 40 years.

A rough 1928 image of Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, the wacky predecessor to Mickey Mouse, was brought out of the Walt Disney Co. archive this week and showcased at an event unveiling "Disney Epic Mickey 2: The Power of Two," an upcoming action-adventure game for the Wii, PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360 that allows players to control both Mickey and Oswald.

The mischievous Oswald was co-created by Disney before Mickey, but he was lost in a 1928 contract dispute with Universal Studios. Oswald hopped back to Disney in 2006 when CEO Bob Iger brokered a deal that sent sportscaster Al Michaels to Universal-NBC. Oswald's first appearance since his return came in 2010's "Epic Mickey" as the ruler of a forgotten realm.

"It's amazing," said Spector. "Everybody at Disney is so proud that he's back. I'm no different. It's just so exciting to be a part of bringing that character back into the world and to see people respond so affectionately toward him. Now, to have Mickey and Oswald brothers united to save the world, it's unbelievable. I feel really privileged."

were over the moon when Bob Iger made (the deal.)

Cline noted that most of the drawings from Disney's early Oswald cartoons were destroyed, likely because there was a lack of storage when his studio moved to a new facility in Burbank, Calif., in 1939. She said the image of Oswald comes from a box of drawings that was found in the 1970s and has been preserved in the Disney archives for the past 40 years.

The image, drawn on paper in graphite, comes from the 1928 animated short film "Sky Scrappers." It shows Oswald shielding himself from falling bricks with an umbrella. Warren Spector, the creative director at "Epic Mickey 2" developer Junction Point Studios in Austin, Texas, said he's aiming to include the image of Oswald somewhere within the sequel.

"It's amazing," said Spector. "Everybody at Disney is so proud that he's back. I'm no different. It's just so exciting to be a part of bringing that character back into the world and to see people respond so affectionately toward him. Now, to have Mickey and Oswald brothers united to save the world, it's unbelievable. I feel really privileged."

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The Hunger Games

Friday	4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Monday thru Thursday	4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Inspired by the best-selling young-adult novel by author Suzanne Collins, The Hunger Games tells the dark tale of a 16-year-old girl named Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), who is selected to compete in a vicious televised tournament in which 24 teenagers from a post-apocalyptic society fight to the death for the entertainment of the masses. Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth co-star.



21 Jump Street

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Monday thru Thursday	4:25	7:25	

Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum
Comedy, Action • Rated R

Synopsis

The television series that shot Johnny Depp to stardom makes the leap to the big screen in this reboot starring Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum. Schmidt (Hill) and Jenko (Tatum) have the kind of faces that could let them pass for teenagers. Eager to prove themselves as effective policemen, the pair join the Jump Street program and go undercover to investigate a high-school drug ring. Now, the only thing more daunting than the prospect of taking on violent adolescent dope slingers is the possibility of experiencing the torture of their teenage years all over again. Ice Cube, Brie Larson, and Rob Riggle co-star.



The Vow

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Monday thru Thursday	4:15	7:15	

Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum
Drama • Rated PG 13



John Carter

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday	4:05	7:05	

Taylor Kitsch, Lynn Collins
Fantasy, Science fiction • Rated PG 13



Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday thru Thursday	4:10	7:10	

Zac Efron, Taylor Swift
Children's/Family • Rated PG



Act of Valor

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday	4:30	7:30	

Emilio Rivera, Roselyn Sanchez
Adventure, Action • Rated R



Journey2: Mysterious Island

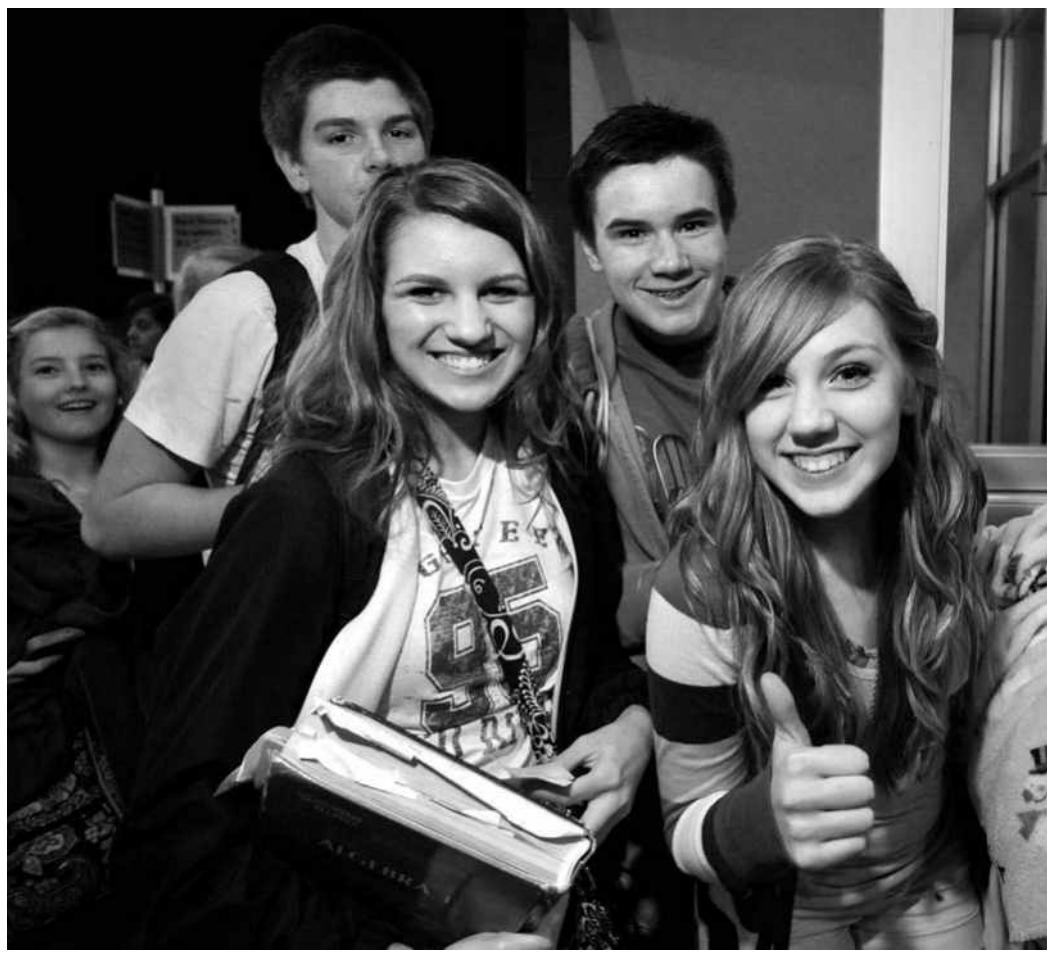
Friday	4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday thru Thursday	4:20	7:20	

The Rock, Venessa Hudgens, Michael Caine
Adventure • Rated PG

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'Hunger Games' battles to \$155M opening weekend



AP

Fans line up to see the midnight shows of "The Hunger Games," at Rave Motion Pictures Northeast in Hurst, Texas on Thursday, March 22, 2012.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Hunger Games" has filled fan appetites with a \$155 million opening weekend that puts it near the top of the domestic record book.

The huge haul marks the third-best debut ever in terms of revenue, behind the \$169.2 million opening for last year's "Harry Potter" finale and the \$158.4 million opening of 2008's "The Dark Knight."

"Harry Potter" and "Batman" were well-established franchises. "The Hunger Games" set a revenue record for a non-sequel, taking in more than twice what the first "Twilight" movie did with its \$69.6 million opening weekend.

"This is the birth of a franchise. To launch in this fashion is mindboggling," said David Spitz, head of distribution at Lionsgate, which now also owns the "Twilight" franchise after its purchase of Summit Entertainment.

Fans camped out for the first screenings of "The Hunger Games," which began just after midnight Friday. Many fans showed up dressed as favorite characters from the story.

"That type of behavior puts it on the level of the 'Star Treks' and 'Star Wars,'" Spitz said. "I was so excited to see how everyone was responding to the material and how ecstatic they were to be a part of it."

With a broader fan base than the "Twilight" franchise, "The Hunger Games" pulled in bigger crowds than the top-grossing installment of that series. "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" leads that franchise with a \$142.8 million opening weekend in 2009.

Overall domestic revenues totaled \$214 million, up 76 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Diary of

a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules" led with \$23.8 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

Business has soared this year, with domestic receipts now at \$2.4 billion, 19 percent ahead of last year's. Hollywood also

Men"—seems unable to escape the long, broad-shouldered shadow of "The Godfather." But for all its heavy themes (immigration, politics, business, the American dream), "The Godfather" is also vastly entertaining. It's a grand, macho soap opera full of unfettered ids, violently settled scores and men wearing enviable suits. And talk about a bromance: Have you ever seen so many guys hugging and kissing in a Hollywood movie?

On the 40th anniversary weekend of the film's release, here are five reasons to love "The Godfather." 1. **Marlon Brando's accent:** At the time, Brando's cotton-cheeked portrayal of Don Corleone came in for some mockery, not unlike Tom Hardy's barely audible villain Bane in the previews for "The Dark Knight Rises." Nevertheless, Brando's hoarse, mumbling, world-weary Don—"What have I ever done to make you

treat me so disrespectfully?"—remains one of the most memorable figures in moviedom.

2. **The one-liners:** If you know any colorful Mafia slang, chances are it came from "The Godfather," which gave us gems like "sleeps with the fishes" and "an offer he can't refuse." It even turned the commonplace phrase "it's strictly business" into a quoteworthy line (usually uttered after taking down a friend or co-worker). And don't forget the ultimate hit-man mantra: "Leave the gun. Take the cannoli."

3. **Those crazy Corleone kids:** There's Connie (Talia Shire), who marries an abusive bum; Sonny (James Caan), the arrogant firstborn with no impulse control; Fredo (John Cazale), a nice boy but soft in the head; and Michael (Al Pacino), Daddy's favorite who eventually takes over the business. Mafia families—they're just like us!

4. **Lenny Montana as Luca**

has a potentially record-breaking summer lineup coming that includes the superhero tales "The Avengers," "The Amazing Spider-Man" and "The Dark Knight Rises."

"With this incredible weekend for 'The Hunger Games,' we're perhaps experiencing what could be called the perfect box-office year," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "We're just on a trajectory like I've never seen."

The previous No. 1 movie, Sony's action comedy "21 Jump Street," dropped to a distant No. 2 but held up well in its second weekend with \$21.3 million. That raised its domestic total to \$71.1 million.

At 40, 'The Godfather' still makes an offer you can't refuse

By RAFER GUZMAN
NEWSDAY

NEW YORK—Francis Ford Coppola's "The Godfather" turned 40 last weekend, a surprisingly ripe old age for a movie that hasn't aged a bit.

One of the great American movies, "The Godfather" hasn't stopped influencing popular culture since the day it was released. Martin Scorsese owes much of his career to it, "The Sopranos" wouldn't have made sense without it, and VH1's reality show "Mob Wives" is a winking travesty of it.

The film's alluring portrait of the mob as Old World charmers with ice-cold hearts appears again and again in crime films, comedies, video games, comic books, hip-hop videos—the list goes on. In fact, nearly anything that focuses on organized crime, corporate gamesmanship or the glories of patriarchy—from HBO's "The Wire" to AMC's "Mad

Men"—seems unable to escape the long, broad-shouldered shadow of "The Godfather."

But for all its heavy themes (immigration, politics, business, the American dream), "The Godfather" is also vastly entertaining. It's a grand, macho soap opera full of unfettered ids, violently settled scores and men wearing enviable suits. And talk about a bromance: Have you ever seen so many guys hugging and kissing in a Hollywood movie?

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4. **Lenny Montana as Luca**

Rock star Lenny Kravitz returns to acting

By RICK BENTLEY
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

LOS ANGELES—Director Gary Ross knew he needed someone who was super-cool and a trendsetter to play the avant garde stylist Cinna in “The Hunger Games.” The first person he thought of was Lenny Kravitz.

It wasn’t a complete out-of-the-box idea to offer the film role to the rock star. Before Kravitz began his four-time Grammy winning recording career, he had done some acting while growing up in New York. His mother was the late actress Roxie Roker (of TV’s “The Jeffersons”).

Slipping into “The Hunger Games” character was easy for Kravitz. Although the character is described as being quite gregarious, Kravitz decided his wardrobe should play it a little more low-key.

“The first question I had to answer was ‘How far do you want to take this?’ When I told friends, who had kids, that I was doing this film and playing Cinna, they were like ‘Oh yeah! He’s super-flamboyant and super-out there!’ I didn’t know at the time what the movie’s style was going to be,” Kravitz says. “We thought it would be interesting to pull him back and make him more like a Tom Ford or Yves Saint Laurent.

“Cinna wears waistcoats, shirts and slacks and is very clean. The gold (on his eyelids) is his touch of the glam Capitol. He’s more subdued than I thought and I liked that.”

It also helped that Kravitz knew “The Hunger Games” star Jennifer Lawrence through



Cinna (Lenny Kravitz, from left), Haymitch Abernathy (Woody Harrelson) and Josh Hutcherson star in “The Hunger Games.”

his daughter, Zoë Kravitz, who co-starred with Lawrence in “X-Men: First Class.”

Kravitz could have returned to acting a long time ago. He’s had many offers during the 23 years he has been making records. But they all felt wrong to him.

“They were stereotypical and weird. They were based on ‘Lenny Kravitz,’ someone with his dreads and his look to go do this thing that was just me. There really was no imagination,” he says. “I just forgot about acting and stuck with music because that’s what I do.”

Director/producer Lee Daniels finally came up with an idea that was imaginative enough to make Kravitz think about returning to acting. The first project they talked about that would

have starred Kravitz didn’t get off the ground. But Daniels remembered Kravitz for the role of Nurse John when he made “Precious.”

That small role re-awakened an acting interest in Kravitz.

“What I liked about the idea of acting was that my music is completely about me, self-indulgent. I play all the instruments. I write the songs. I produce the music. I liked being in this position of service, as corny as that might sound, of being there for the director to help bring out the character,” Kravitz says. “I don’t normally get somebody else telling me what to do, so I was really refreshed by that.”

He says he will keep agreeing to get in front of the camera for roles that challenge him.

It’s not a complete coincidence Kravitz picked “Precious” and “The Hunger Games” for his return—both films based on much-heralded books.

“I am taken by the story. I didn’t know about ‘Hunger Games’ but after I got the book it was not what I expected. It’s written so simply but yet so strongly and at the end of each chapter I was like ‘(Expletive), I can’t put this down.’ For me it’s all about the story and this had great characters and great story and that’s what made me sign on,” Kravitz says.

And speaking of writing, Kravitz, who has eclectic taste in music, says if he had to write theme music for Cinna it would be dark, like an ‘80s David Bowie song.

Abu Dhabi seeks bidders for Louvre branch

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The developer of a branch of the Louvre in Abu Dhabi has launched its search for a contractor to build the museum following a series of delays.

The state-owned Tourism Development and Investment Company placed an ad in local newspapers Sunday seeking bidders to carry out the main construction work on the arm of the French art institution.

The Louvre is the first of several high-profile projects, including a branch of the Guggenheim, planned for the Emirati capital’s multibillion dollar Saadiyat Island development. Its future was called into question when TDIC scrapped a major construction contract in October.

The company said in January it now aims to open the Louvre branch in 2015, years later than previously planned.

Rare movie posters found in US attic fetch \$503K

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A collection of rare movie theater posters found in a northeastern Pennsylvania attic has fetched a total of \$503,000 at auction.

The sale of 33 posters from the Golden Age of Hollywood ended Friday at Heritage Auctions in Texas.

The auction house said a rare 1931 poster for the movie “Dracula” topped the list with a selling price of \$143,400. It sold to an

anonymous overseas buyer.

A surprise of the auction was the \$101,575 price paid for the rare poster of the 1931 movie “Cimarron,” the first Western to win the Best Picture Academy Award.

The posters were stuck together with wallpaper glue when they were purchased for around \$30,000 at a country auction last fall in Berwick. The rare find was revealed as they were steamed apart.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC.

Q: I was a little apprehensive at first about how “Two and a Half Men” would be with Charlie Sheen gone, but I have to say it is still must-watch TV for me. I especially like the recurring character of Lyndsey, who plays Alan’s sometimes girlfriend. Will they stay together?—Kelly T., via e-mail

A: If Courtney Thorne-Smith has any say, they will stay together, but not for any big romantic reasons. As Courtney told me: “I love their relationship so much because of their honesty. They are two people who looked at each other and said, ‘Seriously, we’re just not going to do any better.’ They’re settling; there’s none of the fantasy. It works for them. I think they are

really authentic with each other, and it just makes me laugh so hard.” Go to www.celebrityextraonline.com to read my entire interview with Courtney, where she talks about the joy of watching Jon Cryer “do his magic,” the transition from Charlie Sheen to Ashton Kutcher, and Lyndsey and Alan’s future.

Q: Is “Steel Magnolias” being remade?—Charlene F., via e-mail

A: Lifetime Television has snagged Queen Latifah to star in and executive produce the television adaptation of “Steel Magnolias.” While Latifah takes on the role of M’Lynn, Alfre Woodard joins her as Ouiser, with Phylicia Rashad as Clairee, Jill Scott as Truvy, Adepero Oduye as Anabelle and Condola Rashad as Shelby. Production begins this month, with the pre-

miere scheduled for later this year.

■ ■ ■

Q: Is it true that the HBO series “Luck” has been canceled because three horses died?—Rosalind R., Fort Worth, Texas

A: Unfortunately, that is true. While a second season had been ordered, producers David Milch and Michael Mann decided to pull the plug on the Dustin Hoffman-starring series, stating: “Safety is always of paramount concern. ... While we maintained the highest safety standards possible, accidents unfortunately happen, and it is impossible to guarantee they won’t in the future. Accordingly, we have reached this difficult decision.”

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com.

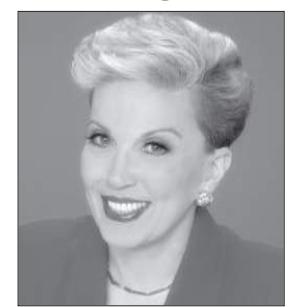
Good treatment is available for teen who’s breaking bad

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: “Fed-Up Father in Minnesota” (Jan. 20) caught his difficult 16-year-old daughter smoking pot and is considering sending her to a place for “troubled teens.” We sent our son to such a program on the advice of an education consultant, and he almost didn’t make it back alive. An untreated mental illness had been misdiagnosed as a behavioral problem, and his illness went from bad to worse.

You gave the right advice. Get an evaluation from a reputable clinic or mental health professional, then look for options as close to home as possible. Adolescence is not forever. Parents need to hang on and not be lured into thinking there’s a magical solution.

ANN IN CHAPEL HILL, N.C.



Dear Abby

DEAR ANN: I advised “Fed-Up” to have a psychologist identify what’s troubling his daughter, and that sending her away should be only a last resort. Readers were eager to comment:

DEAR ABBY: “Fed-Up” should consider an intervention like the Scared Straight program. Teens are shown where their bad behavior leads, tour a prison and see inmates serving time for similar conduct. The inmates also share their stories in an effort to turn the teens’ lives around. Sometimes a rude awakening is the answer for a young person traveling down the wrong path.

BRITTANY IN THE SOUTH

DEAR ABBY: I was sent to boarding school because I was acting out and probably on my way to bigger troubles. While there, I was exposed to more than I’d ever been at home. There were poorly supervised kids engaged in sexual activity, every recreational drug imaginable and free-flowing alcohol. I survived, but had the good sense to tell my parents and didn’t return for a second year. What worked for me was attentive parents and a good therapist who provided me a safe, constructive way to sort out my issues.

BOARDING SCHOOL SURVIVOR

DEAR ABBY: “Fed-Up” said the problem with his daughter started when he married his second wife. There are obviously issues between his wife and daughter that need resolving. Shipping the girl off won’t fix them.

My stepfather was abusive to me and my brother, but our busy working mom didn’t believe us. My brother began having behavioral problems at school and at home, so Mom gave in to our stepfather’s suggestion to send him to military school in another state.

My brother never forgave Mom for it. He left home at 17, and they have been estranged for 33 years. It is my mother’s biggest single regret.

MARY KATE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY: I work for a non-profit child-care organization that provides community-based services to families struggling with this situation. We tailor services to meet the specific needs of a family in their home environment, providing interventions without the disruption of out-of-home placement.

Professional staff assess the case and develop a plan to resolve the issues, taking into account the family dynamic and home/school environment. This kind of family mentorship is a step in the right direction to restore relationships.

BELINDA P., AMARILLO, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: On the advice of a therapist, we enlisted the help of an education consultant and sent our 15-year-old son away for 21 months of psychological treatment for troubled teens. It saved his life and made us a family again. The consultant can steer the family to a reputable program that “fits.” It can be an overwhelming decision, but the consultant’s help was invaluable.

Don’t wait too long, “Fed-Up” — once your daughter is 18, many of the options disappear. The process isn’t cheap, but what’s the cost of a life? Our son is 17 now, sober, respectful and looking forward to his future.

GLAD WE DID IT IN CALIFORNIA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



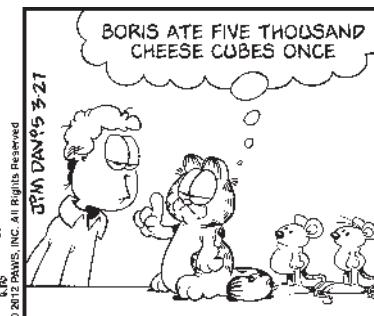
By Bill Waterson



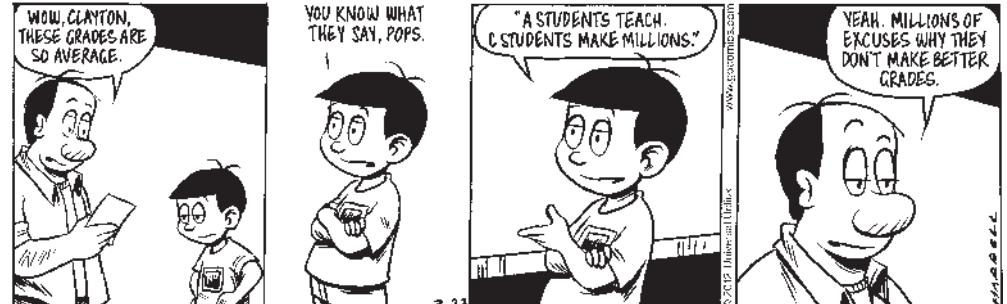
Garfield®



By Jim Davis



Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36	Chicago team, for short	DOWN	21	Arthur Wynne creation
1 Sweater eater	37	Mimic	2	Not just mine	22 Author Fleming
5 Sinful	38	Offspring	3	Race-horse's gait	23 Sprite
8 Robbers' foes	41	Winter ailment	4	Owns	24 Wire measure
12 Emanation	42	Frequently, in verse	5	Jazz style	25 Ostrich's cousin
13 Leading lady	45	Corporate symbol	6	Acknowledged	26 1940s headline word
14 Picnic hamperer	46	Goalpost piece	7	Morning moisture	27 Journal
15 Medieval launcher	48	PC maker	8	Rapid exchange of words	28 Schedule abbr.
17 "Beetle Bailey" dog	49	Clumsy sort	9	Inauguration	29 — Diego
18 Superlative suffix	50	Long sandwich	10	Pocket bread	31 Irritate
19 Depressed	51	Lincoln in-law	11	Frosty's makeup	34 Heavy weight
20 "Non-sense!"	52	Mel of Coopers-town	16	Do in	35 Piece of work
21 Upper limit	53	Watched	20	Sharable file	37 Soaring
22 Egos' counter-parts					38 Bed-frame piece
23 Abrasive powder					39 Somewhat, to the maestro
26 Belgian —					40 Worn
30 Long car					41 "Animal House" house
31 Moving vehicle					42 Do as you're told
32 Greek vowel					43 Passenger's payment
33 Befuddle					44 Walked (on)
35 Church music-maker					45 Bill and —
					47 That woman

Yesterday's answer 3-27

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ferrie, 37; Nathan Fillion, 41; Mariah Carey, 43; Pauley Perrette, 43.

Happy Birthday: Your emotions will interfere with your judgment, especially when it comes to money matters, job choices and secret affairs. Don't jump into something without getting all the facts first. Patience will be needed if you want to come out on top and avoid unnecessary losses. If you have to use force, don't bother. Your numbers are 4, 12, 19, 27, 31, 40, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put a hop into your step and finish projects that are gathering dust. It's difficult to move forward with so much clutter, literally and figuratively. A clear passage will lead to better decisions and greater progress. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Offering help is likely to lead to being taken advantage of you if you aren't careful. You'll learn a valuable lesson if you watch the way a pro takes care of other people's business. Social activity will enhance your love life. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be too quick to respond. Taking your time and assessing the situation will help you avoid making a mistake based on false information. Question anyone or anything that confuses you. Put your money and possessions in a safe place. **★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotional blackmail must be avoided if you want to get things done. Not everyone will play fair, and you have to keep your eye on those

trying to get something for nothing. Form an alliance with someone who thinks the same way you do. **★★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do your best job, or someone will point out your shortcomings. You need a change. Whether it's your surroundings, your philosophy or spending time with new acquaintances, the diversion will spark ideas that will shape the way you move forward. **★★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Try something new and expand your outlook, friendships and future interests. Make personal changes that will raise your confidence and give you the push you need to do things you've been afraid to pursue in the past. **★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sign up for something that interests you. A course, a challenge or some form of self-improvement will help you make a choice regarding your next move. Don't let anyone push you in a direction you don't want to go. **★★★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put greater emphasis on relationships, but don't let your heart confuse you when it comes to money decisions. Changes at home must be cost-efficient if they are going to ease your stress. Love and romance are in the stars. **★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's what you do and how you treat others that will bring you positive returns. Anger or impulsive action will lead to trouble with authority figures and peers. Don't start something you cannot finish. Stick close to home. **★★**

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Live, love, laugh and be happy. Work to improve your home, family and financial life. Love is in the stars, and finding solutions to any problems you face will be easy if you share your thoughts and work with worthy contributors. **★★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Too much of anything or anyone will go against whatever you are trying to accomplish. Organize and prepare for what's ahead with a realistic outlook and gather the data to back the decisions you make. Strength and courage prevail. **★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You've got all the right moves. Look at your options and call in favors if it will help you get what you want. Apply pressure and show your strength and willpower. Success can be yours, but it demands time, effort and dedication. **★★★★**

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive. You strive for security and attract prosperity. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	8	9	2				
2			5				
6	4			9			
3	5			2			
7	3			1			
9		8	5				
3	8	7	4	6	2		
7				4	1	9	

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	9	1	8	5	3	2	7	6
2	3	8	4	6	7	9	1	5
5	7	6	2	9	1	3	8	4
9	6	7	1	8	5	4	2	3
3	2	5	9	7	4	8	6	1
8	1	4	3	2	6	7	5	9
6	8	2	5	4	9	1	3	7
1	5	9	7	3	8	6	4	2
7	4	3	6	1	2	5	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/28

By DAVID OUELLET

WONDERWORD

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SHEA STADIUM

Solution: 8 letters

B	J	F	I	L	M	I	N	G	B	M	A	E	T	G
L	U	O	I	O	R	O	J	A	M	U	S	T	R	A
E	E	L	P	E	R	B	L	U	N	E	A	E	R	
A	V	A	O	L	L	A	I	L	U	J	S	Y	C	F
C	S	E	G	V	I	D	N	R	A	S	N	L	N	U
H	O	©	N	U	A	N	O	G	D	B	O	O	O	N
E	C	①	S	T	E	O	N	R	E	E	T	R	C	K
R	C	②	S	W	S	I	A	L	L	N	P	O	H	E
S	E	①	Y	E	L	O	L	N	G	N	A	G	O	L
M	R	O	V	T	B	A	P	R	O	E	L	Q	M	F
C	R	E	S	E	B	O	L	G	A	T	C	U	E	R
K	L	E	R	E	L	L	B	E	A	T	L	E	S	E
T	R	O	S	I	A	E	I	V	O	M	S	E	P	Y
W	C	A	C	D	E	T	S	O	H	J	N	E	A	
S	B	E	P	K	N	S	S	E	V	I	S	S	A	M

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Taylor's 22 lead KU to win over Carolina



ST. LOUIS
(AP)—Back in December, Kansas was scuffling along at 7-3 and simply making the NCAA tournament would have been considered an achievement.

Look where the overachievers are headed now.

Kansas is on its way to the Final Four for the first time since winning it all in 2008, thanks to a clutch performance by Tyshawn Taylor, some stifling defense and the Jayhawks' unshakable belief that they were better than anyone gave them credit for.

Taylor broke out of his scoring slump with 22 points and the Jayhawks handcuffed top-seeded North Carolina for the last 5 1/2 minutes of an 80-67 victory over old coach Roy Williams and the Tar Heels on Sunday.

"This would have been a year, if we got to the second weekend (of the tournament), most Kansas fans would be happy. But that's not how those guys think," coach Bill Self said. "They think this is their year, and I'm certainly not going to tell them anything different."

The second-seeded Jayhawks (31-6) will play Ohio State on Saturday in their first Final Four appearance since winning the 2008 national championship.

And how's this for symmetry? Kansas began this year's tournament in Omaha, Neb., the same place as four years ago.

As the game ended, Taylor—much maligned for his shooting struggles during the first three games of the NCAA tournament—ran to Kansas fans and raised both arms in the air. Travis Releford tossed his sweatbands into the crowd.

"This is what you come to Kansas for," Taylor said. "It's a great feeling, but it's just one step."

Taylor led all five Jayhawks starters in double figures. Player of the year candidate Thomas Robinson added 18 points and nine rebounds, and Elijah Johnson kept up his blistering pace in the tournament with 10 points, including a 3-pointer with 3:07 to play that sparked Kansas' 12-0 run to end the game. Jeff Withey made two monster blocks to deny the Tar Heels during the final run—including one that set up a big three-point play by Taylor.

Taylor came up with the rebound after Withey swatted away a shot by John Henson and streaked downcourt for a layup, getting fouled by Stilman White in the process. As what seemed like the entire state of Kansas roared, Taylor butted his head into Robinson's chest, then made the free throw to give Kansas a 74-67 lead with 1:59 left.

Withey blocked White's shot on the other end, and the Tar Heels never threatened again in the Midwest Regional final.

"There's no way to put into words the way we feel," Williams said. "There's no way to put into words the way I feel. ...

It's the NCAA tournament. One team wins and one team loses, and that's what we have to understand."

James Michael McAdoo scored 15 for the Tar Heels (32-6), who played better in their second game without injured star point guard Kendall Marshall. But North Carolina couldn't make a basket over the last 5:46.

It was only the third defeat in 12 regional final appearances for the Tar Heels, but their second straight after losing to Kentucky last year.

"It was a game of runs," Williams said. "And we didn't answer the last one."

Harrison Barnes finished with 13 points and four assists, but also had three turnovers. Tyler Zeller had 12 points, six rebounds and four blocks in his final game.

"We had an opportunity to win that game and we didn't come through," said Barnes, who sat slumped in front of his locker, a towel covering his head, for several minutes. "I missed a lot of shots I usually make. Big-time players come through in big-time games, and it just wasn't there tonight."

This was only the second time Williams had faced Kansas since leaving the school where he spent his first 15 years as a head coach, taking the Jayhawks to the NCAA title game twice—they lost in both 1991 and 2003—and two other Final Fours. Though Kansas fans have softened some—Williams was still greeted with a chorus of boos, and one fan held up a sign that said, "Roy Down, 2 to Go"—Williams said Saturday that facing his old team will always be unpleasant.

"Too emotional for me. That's the bottom line," Williams said, calling Kansas his "second-favorite" team. "I don't think it'll ever feel good for me, regardless of the outcome. I don't think I'll ever feel comfortable with it."

At least this one went better than the first meeting, at the 2008 Final Four, where the Jayhawks wallop North Carolina on the way to winning the title Williams never could at Kansas.

"I enjoyed coaching these kids, and you hate it for them. That's what it's all about," Williams said. "This is college basketball. It's not about the coaches, it's about the players."

North Carolina was playing a second straight game without the dazzling Marshall, who Williams called "our engine, our driver, the head of the thing." But unlike Friday, when the Tar Heels turned the ball over a season-high 24 times and looked surprisingly disheveled against No. 13 seed Ohio, they had things back under control Sunday.

White, a freshman, may be a "wacko," as Williams has said affectionately several times the last few days, but the kid knows how to run an offense. He had seven assists Sunday, giving



Kansas guard Tyshawn Taylor (10) dunks during the second half of the NCAA men's college basketball tournament Midwest Regional final against North Carolina on Sunday, March 25, 2012, in St. Louis.

him 13 for the two games without a single turnover, and North Carolina shot almost 64 percent in the first half.

But the Jayhawks cranked up the pressure defensively in the second half, and North Carolina buckled. The Tar Heels shot just 7 of 31 after halftime and had six turnovers. Kansas finished with a 41-35 rebounding edge.

"We understood what got us to this point—playing defense," Taylor said. "We stuck it out, got the stops when we needed to. Our bigs were huge on the boards. The defense was great down the stretch. That's what's going to win this thing."

The game was tied 47-all at halftime, and the Jayhawks seemed on the verge of pulling away several times only to have Carolina reel them back in. But just before the midway point of the second half, Kansas established some breathing room when Releford scored on a jumper to start an 8-2 run. Taylor capped the spurt with a swirl-in jumper and a dunk off a turnover by Henson to give the Jayhawks a 66-61 lead.

White, a freshman, may be a "wacko," as Williams has said affectionately several times the last few days, but the kid knows how to run an offense. He had seven assists Sunday, giving

him 13 for the two games without a single turnover, and North Carolina shot almost 64 percent in the first half.

But the Jayhawks cranked up the pressure defensively in the second half, and North Carolina buckled. The Tar Heels shot just 7 of 31 after halftime and had six turnovers. Kansas finished with a 41-35 rebounding edge.

"It was a shot I was comfortable taking," Johnson said. "He took a step backward, and I made him pay for it."

Doubt the Jayhawks, and they'll prove you wrong.

Kentucky 82, Baylor 70

In Atlanta, Kentucky could've cut the nets down at halftime.

Actually, the Wildcats probably would've been good skipping the ceremony altogether.

A South Regional title is fine, but what matters to this bunch of future NBA stars is breaking out the scissors in the Big Easy.

Top-seeded Kentucky advanced to the Final Four for the second year in a row with a 82-70 blitzing of Baylor, setting up a Bluegrass showdown with rival Louisville in the national semifinals Saturday in New Orleans.

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist scored 19 points, Anthony Davis added 18 points and 11 re-

bounds, and Terrence Jones dazzled in all the overlooked areas to lead the Wildcats (36-2) on Sunday. For all the hoopla sure to surround the next game in its basketball-crazed state, Kentucky won't consider the season a success unless it wins two more games—culminating in a national title.

"I'm not satisfied yet," Kidd-Gilchrist said.

This group sure has the look of a champion, shaking off an early blow by the Bears (30-8)—a very good team with a daring fashion sense that was

simply no match for coach John Calipari's latest group of Fab Freshmen. Kentucky took control with an early 16-0 run and led by 20 at halftime.

"This team is better than I thought," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. "This is the best team we faced all year ... probably in a couple of years."

Two years ago, Baylor lost to eventual national champion Duke in another regional final.

"Duke was a good team," Drew said, "but Kentucky is better."

The Wildcats beat Louisville 69-62 on New Year's Eve, but

now they'll meet with the highest stakes ever. Kidd-Gilchrist shrugged when someone asked about playing the Cardinals.

"I'm just worried about us," he said. "That's it. I don't worry about anybody else."

Calipari, in his third season at Kentucky, just keeps recruiting the best high school players in the land, molds them into a top team, then sends most of 'em on to the NBA.

Then he starts the whole process over again.

"There are some opinions that will never change," Calipari said. "All I'm trying to do is coach these young people. I'm trying to do the best job for these kids and their families."

Two years ago, John Wall led Kentucky to the regional final. Last season, Brandon Knight helped guide the Wildcats to the Final Four. Now, with those guys in the NBA and Kidd-Gilchrist and Davis stopping off for what could be their only season in Lexington, Big Blue has a shot at what those last two teams failed to do—bringing Kentucky its first national title since 1998.

But for all the talk about Calipari's one-and-done tactics, he's getting plenty of contributions from those who hung around beyond their freshmen year. Take Jones, a sophomore forward who passed up the draft. He scored just one point in the opening half, but his fingerprints were all over Kentucky's dominating performance: nine rebounds, six assists, three blocks and two steals and—most in the first 10 minutes.

"I was just trying to be aggressive early," Jones said. "That allowed me to get in great position for rebounds and to lead the fast break."

Then there's Darius Miller, one of only two seniors on the roster. He gave up his starting role to Kidd-Gilchrist in this one—Kentucky essentially has six starters—but added four points, two assists and two steals in the first-half blowout.

At one point, Kidd-Gilchrist had as many points as Baylor's entire team: 17 apiece. Kentucky led 42-22 at the break and Baylor never got any closer than 10 points the rest of the way.

"It's kind of hard to play us," Davis said. "We're very long and very athletic. It makes it tough on the other team."

The Wildcats left New Orleans earlier this month disappointed with a loss in the Southeastern Conference championship game.

That one's long forgotten.

A national championship has been the goal all along.

"It's a great feeling to be part of something special," Davis said.

Quincy Acy led Baylor with 22 points, and Pierre Jackson added 21. Not enough. Not nearly enough.

"They're a great team," Acy said. "They've got some good dudes down there."

Tiger gets back to what he does best

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Tiger Woods hit so many great shots that he couldn't single one out as the best. Winning was as sweet as ever, even after a PGA Tour drought that stretched over 923 days and 27 tournaments.

The best part about posing with the trophy at Bay Hill?

The conversation was back on golf, his favorite subject.

Just two weeks ago, Woods gingerly climbed into a golf cart and was taken off the golf course at Doral with soreness and swelling in his left Achilles tendon, the same injury that caused him to miss three months and two majors last year.

On Sunday, no one questioned his health. Woods marched to a five-shot victory in the Arnold Palmer Invitational that restored his confidence and gave him momentum going into the Masters two weeks away.

"This was coming," Woods said. "I've been close a number of times, basically since Australia. Just had to stay the course."

Only a month ago, there were concerns that Woods could no longer make the important putts.

He had missed a 5-foot birdie putt on the last hole to lose in the second round at the Match Play Championship. He missed several putts just as close when he crashed out in the final round at Pebble Beach. But there he was at Bay Hill, knocking in two big par putts on the back nine to keep his distance from Graeme McDowell.

"I just never got close to him," McDowell said.

And then there's the book by his ex-swing coach, Hank



MasterCard

Haney. "The Big Miss," which goes on sale Tuesday, has been such a sore spot with Woods that he lost his cool with a reporter earlier this month. The book reveals a driven player who is self-centered and rarely satisfied, no big surprise except that it was a side of Woods he tried to keep private for all these years.

Woods added a chapter to his own book Sunday.

He won for the 72nd time on the PGA Tour—one short of Jack Nicklaus in second place on the career list—and 84th time worldwide. It was the 16th time he won by at least five shots, and his seventh win at Bay Hill tied the

PGA Tour for most wins on a single golf course. Woods owns both marks. He also has won seven times at Firestone.

"I think he really just kind of nailed home his comeback," McDowell said. "Great to have a front-row seat watching maybe the greatest of all time doing what he does best—winning golf tournaments."

The only thing missing was the host himself.

Palmer's blood pressure increased during the final round from new medications, and he was taken to the hospital about 15 minutes before the tournament ended as a precaution. Alastair Johnston, vice chairman at IMG and his longtime business manager, said Palmer would be kept overnight. "Nobody is overly concerned," he said.

Woods goes to No. 6 in the world, returning to the top 10 for the first time since May 22.

"Heading home now and I

Tiger Woods holds up the championship trophy after winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill, Sunday, March 25, 2012, in Orlando, Fla.

AP



can't stop smiling. Thanks to Otown fans and everyone watching for all the love. Get well soon, Arnie," Woods tweeted about three hours after his win.

On a Bay Hill course that was crisp, fast and dangerous, Woods ran off four birdies on the front nine to build a four-shot lead, then kept his mistakes to a minimum for a 2-under 70.

He quickly stretched his lead to three shots on the opening hole when McDowell, who

closed with a 74, caught a buried lie in the bunker and made double bogey. After that, it was vintage Woods.

From 267 yards away in the fairway on the par-5 sixth, Woods hit a 3-iron that climbed over the water and landed softly to just over 15 feet away to secure a birdie. Two holes later, facing a tight pin over the water, he ripped an 8-iron from 182 yards that barely cleared the bank and caught a slope to

within 4 feet for birdie.

The lead was four at the turn, and McDowell never got closer than three the rest of the way. Ian Poulter had a 74 and finished alone in third, and while he never looked behind him to see what Woods was doing, he could hear it.

This is a win that will resonate.

"He's always a force to be reckoned with when he's not playing his best golf," Poulter said. "And obviously, he's play-

ing a lot of good golf right now. The shots he's hit, just looking at the highlights, he's got a lot of his game back. And when he starts rolling putts in, he's dangerous. So he's going to be a force for everybody at Augusta."

Woods finished at 13-under 275.

It was the first time Woods had won on the PGA Tour since Sept. 13, 2009, at the BMW Championship. His last win against a full field had been Nov. 15, 2009, at the Australian Masters.

Twelve days later, Woods drove into a fire hydrant outside his home, and it wasn't long before revelations of multiple extramarital affairs that led to divorce and cost him an impeccable marketing image. Woods has won back the support of fans who love to see great golf, though corporate support has been lagging.

Woods downplayed the significance of Sunday, pointing out on more than one occasion that he considers it his second win since the scandal. He counts the Chevron World Challenge last December, when he went birdie-birdie to beat an 18-man field of top-50 players.

But this was significant—a PGA Tour event with a full field, and a strong field at that. And with a performance so clean that he was never seriously challenged on the back nine.

"I've gotten better, and that's the main thing," Woods said. "I've been close for a number of tournaments now. And it was just a matter of staying the course and staying patient, keeping working on fine-tuning what we're doing. And here we are."

Hawks beat Jazz in NBA's first 4OT game since '97



ATLANTA (AP)—Joe Johnson scored 37 points and Josh Smith added 22 as the Atlanta Hawks ended Utah's six-game winning streak with a 139-133 victory Sunday in the NBA's first quadruple-overtime game since 1997.

The four overtimes tied for the third-longest game in NBA history. It was the ninth NBA game to go four OTs and the first since Phoenix beat Portland 140-139 on Nov. 14, 1997.

Al Jefferson finished with 28 points and 17 rebounds, and Paul Millsap had 25 points and 13 boards for the Jazz before both players fouled out in the final overtime.

Johnson ended the first quarter with 18 points after going 8 of 8 in the period. He missed eight of his next nine shots, including a potential game-winning runner with 3 seconds left in regulation, before hitting a 3-pointer that forced the third overtime.

With 16.9 seconds remain-

ing in the fourth OT, Johnson's 20-foot jumper over C.J. Miles gave the Hawks a 135-131 lead. Jeff Teague, who had 18 points and nine assists, added a pair of free throws with 13 seconds to go to make it 137-133. Johnson's two free throws sealed the victory with 5.5 seconds remaining.

Thunder 103, Heat 87
In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant had 28 points, nine rebounds and tied his season high with eight assists, and Kendrick Perkins added a season-best 16 points as Oklahoma City opened a difficult stretch in their schedule by beating Miami.

The two title contenders opened the day tied for the second-best record in the NBA, three games behind the Chicago Bulls in the race for the top overall seed in the playoffs.

Dwyane Wade led Miami with 22 points but also committed a season-worst six turnovers. LeBron James had 17 points, seven assists and four turnovers.

Spurs 93, 76ers 76

In San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 21 points as San Antonio beat Philadelphia in a matchup of short-handed teams.

DeJuan Blair added 19 points for the Spurs, who won for the seventh time in eight games and swept the season series with the 76ers despite being without Tim Duncan. With the Spurs playing three games in three nights, coach Gregg Popovich gave Duncan his second day off this season.

Elton Brand led the 76ers with 12 points and Jodie Meeks added 11.

Celtics 88, Wizards 76

In Boston, Avery Bradley scored a career-high 23 points, and Paul Pierce added 21 points and eight rebounds to help Boston beat Washington.

Boston was without guards Ray Allen (ankle) and Mickael Pietrus (head injury) but still had plenty to hold off the struggling Wizards.

Rajon Rondo had 11 assists,

while Kevin Garnett finished with 10 points and six assists for the Celtics, who shot 22 for 34 (65 percent) in the first half. Boston led by as much as 25.

Jordan Crawford scored 20 points, and Kevin Seraphin had 15 points and 11 rebounds for Washington. John Wall added 12 points and nine assists.

Timberwolves 117, Nuggets 100

In Minneapolis, Kevin Love followed up his 51-point game with 30 points and 21 rebounds to lead Minnesota over Denver.

Luke Ridnour had 25 points and six assists, and Wayne Ellington added 17 points for the Timberwolves, who have gone 3-6 since point guard Ricky Rubio was lost for the season March 9 to a torn ACL in his left knee.

Kenneth Faried had 17 points, and JaVale McGee had 13 points and 11 rebounds for Denver.

Love had 51 points and 14 rebounds Friday night in a double-overtime loss at Oklahoma City.

Suns 108, Cavaliers 83

In Cleveland, Marcin Gortat and Markieff Morris scored 22 points each as Phoenix never trailed against Cleveland.

Steve Nash added 13 assists for the Suns, who have won six of eight to get back into the Western Conference playoff race. Phoenix trail Denver and Houston by 1 1/2 games in the race for the final playoff spot in the conference.

Rookie Kyrie Irving scored 16 points for Cleveland, which has lost six of seven.

Gortat scored the game's first 10 points, including two dunks and three layups, to push Phoenix out to a 12-0 lead. Irving ended the drought with a 3-pointer 8:21 into the game.

Trail Blazers 90, Warriors 87

In Portland, Oregon, Raymond Felton scored 24 points and LaMarcus Aldridge had 18, including a fadeaway jumper and two free throws that proved the difference in the final minute, leading Portland over Golden State.

David Lee's tip-in gave the Warriors an 87-86 lead before Aldridge hit a jumper to put

Portland in front with 39.9 seconds left. Aldridge followed with two free throws.

Golden State rookie Charles Jenkins, who scored a career-high 27 points, missed a 3-point attempt at the buzzer as the Warriors lost for the sixth time in eight games.

Grizzlies 102, Lakers 96

In Los Angeles, Rudy Gay scored 18 points and O.J. Mayo had 12 of his 16 in the fourth quarter, helping Memphis avoid a winless road trip by beating the Los Angeles Lakers.

Mike Conley added 13 points and Tony Allen had 12 for the Grizzlies, who squandered a 14-point third-quarter lead before pulling away in the fourth.

Andrew Bynum scored 30 points on 11-of-16 shooting to lead the Lakers. Kobe Bryant finished with 18 points after a slow start and Ramon Sessions also had 18 in his second start with Los Angeles. Pau Gasol had 16 points on just 4-of-15 shooting while adding 14 rebounds.

Mayo accounted for all the points during a 7-0 run in the fourth, during which the Grizzlies took an 89-76 lead.

All Schools qualifiers reset for next month

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roeslyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Qualifying tournaments for the 2012 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championship has been rescheduled next month to give students more time to prepare for the trials.

The qualifiers in running, jumping, and throwing events were originally set to start yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex, but after meeting with school coaches and officials last week, Northern Marianas Athletics decided to kick off the trials on April 2.

Week 1 of the qualifiers will run from April 2 to 4 and the public is requested to refrain from using the track facility from 3pm to 7pm to give way to student-athletes.

Events scheduled in Week 1, April 2, are the 60m, 100m, long jump, and 4x100m relay and the qualifiers are only for students from Saipan Community School, Dandan Elementary



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Elementary school students run in the 400m race during last year's All Schools meet at the Oleai Sports Complex.

School, Gregorio T. Camacho, and William S. Reyes.

On April 3, Whispering Palms, Oleai, Koblerville, San Antonio, Brilliant Star, Kagman, Saipan Internation-

al School, Mt. Carmel, San Vicente, Tanapag, and Garapan will compete in the same events.

The April 4 qualifiers will be for junior high and high school students and

SUFA softball fundraiser tourney meeting tomorrow



The SUFA Softball Association has scheduled a 6pm coaches and team representatives meeting Wednesday night at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium for teams interested in participating in its second fundraiser soft-

TENORIO

From Page 28

this morning (last Saturday). The condition was almost perfect. I did not know I finished first in my age group, I just kept on pushing until I saw the finish line," said Tenorio, who had split

ball tournament scheduled from March 30 to April 1 at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

There is a \$100 entrance per team and the first ten teams to pay in full will be allotted spots.

The tourney will follow a double-elimination format with one modified

times of 29:47 (swim), 1:53:59 (bike), and 1:11:04 (run).

Meanwhile, other age group finishers in the men's division were Jules Goguely (15 to 19/ 4:05:23); Benjamin Dillon (25 to 29/3:15:36); Peter Lombard (35 to 39/3:13:21); Takayuki Hamada (45 to 49/3:33:35); Jay Samp-

free throw line.

The Falcons out-rebounded the Vikings in the match, but the latter contained Montevallo to a dismal 37.5 field goal percentage.

This year's run marked WWU's second appearance as an Elite 8 squad and its title marked the state's first basketball championship on any level since 1976 (Puget Sound). WWU reached the semifinals back in 2001.

WWU snapped a 10-game winning streak by Montevallo to finish its season with a school record 31 wins and five losses.

The Vikings defeated seven Top 25-ranked division II squads this season.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

to complement four other teammates in double figures on the big stage, which was televised nationally on CBS. He also led the team with nine rebounds and four assists.

It was a very close match, but the Vikings held the Falcons scoreless in the last five minutes of the first half for a slim, 30-26, lead at intermission.

Twelve of the game's 16 lead changes came in the opening half.

Then WWU worked out a double-digit lead in the second half and fought off a late rally by the Falcons from the

sel (50 to 54/3:36:20); Saburo Arakawa (55 to 59/ 5:39:55); and Alan Moore (60 to 64/ 4:38:57).

In the women's division, Saipan's Dawn Hammermeister and Robyn Wondrasek won the 45 to 49 and 25 to 29 age groups after clocking in at 4:07:09 and 4:39:26, respectively. In the 40 to

44 category, Japan's Yoshimi Yasue took the top honors with her 4:26:19, while Guam's Erin Johnson prevailed in the 35 to 39 age group with a time of 4:42:53, beating Karly O'Neal (5:20:02) and Azuna Samata (5:53:17).

Winners in the relay and Sports course will be released later this week.

CRYSTAL

From Page 28

4-2 record and take one of the eighth playoff slots. SCS dropped to a 3-5 record, absorbing its fifth straight loss and must win its last game to keep its playoff chances.

SCS had an opportunity to break its losing skid when it led Mobil, 59-56, after the third period, but the latter had a big fourth quarter to steal the victory. Mobil outgunned SCS in the final came to, 29-15, with Jun Estolas and Gyles Ruluked combining for 17 of their total points in the payoff period and Angelo Fernando adding seven.

Estolas finished with a game-high 28 points, while Ruluked and Fernando added 20 and 12, respectively for Mobil, which now joins Sunrisers (7-2), defending champion Blue Haus (6-1), Mobil (4-2), QQ Rent A Car (5-4), and

Crystal Pure (4-4) in the single-elimination playoffs.

Crystal Pure 65, Hite Beer 52

Crystal Pure secured a spot in the next round after beating Hite Beer in a make-up game and improved to an even 4-4 card.

Hite Beer fell to a 3-6 record with no game left in the regular season and must wait for the results of the remaining matches this week to determine its fate in the league. Hite Beer will fight for the last three playoff berths against Shirley's Coffee Shop (3-4), SCS (3-5) and Andhok's Grille (3-5). Only Smart Cagers/Ali'i is eliminated in the 10-team field with its 2-7 card.

With still four teams vying for three playoff tickets, there could be a triple or two-way tie for the No. 8 spot and organizers said that for two-way deadlock, the winner-over-the-other rule will be

implemented. For the three-way tie, the team with the highest points (in quotient system) will advance to the next round.

Crystal Pure avoided any complication going into the playoffs when it defeated Hite in a make-up game first played on Feb. 13. Crystal Pure led the rained-out match at halftime, 28-25, and picked up where it left off for its fourth win.

The Kae Bernardo-led Crystal Pure stretched its three-point first half lead to six after the third, 40-34, and then played harder in the fourth period en route to a double-digit win.

Crystal Pure opened the fourth with back-to-back triples from Mike Cruz and J.R. Darag, while Bernardo and Rex Yabut put on the finishing touches with their two-point baskets and free throws. Bernardo top-scored for Crystal Pure with 18, while Yabut and Cruz chipped in 14 and 10, respectively.

Hite had only Ben Lisua cracking

events to be contested are the same. Schools invited in the last day of Week 1 trials include Marianas High School, Kagman, Saipan Southern, SIS, Whispering Palms, Chacha, Hopwood Junior High School, SCS, Marianas Baptist Academy, and Northern Marianas Academy.

For Week 2, trials will run from April 10 to 13 and events scheduled are 200m and 400m runs, softball throw, mixed medley relay. The April 13 trial for high school and junior high will add 3,000m and discus throw.

Week 3 trials for 800m and 1,500m runs, 4x400m relay, javelin, and shotput will be held from April 16 to 19, while Week 4 qualifiers for 60m, 100m, long jump, and 4x100m relay will run from April 23 to 26.

Eight more qualifying days will take place (April 30, May 1 to 3 and May 7 to 10) before students compete in the All Schools Championship scheduled from May 17 to 19. Only the Top 8 students in each event will qualify for the championship.

land, Oregon to compete in the highly anticipated 2012 Annual Labor Day Softball Tournament, which will be held for the second time in Boise, Idaho.

For more information, contact Joe Flores 483-7848. (*Walter Cepeda Sutherland*)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	27	22	.551	—
Boston	26	22	.542	1/2
New York	24	25	.490	3
Toronto	16	33	.327	11
New Jersey	16	34	.320	11 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	35	12	.745	—
Orlando	31	18	.633	5
Atlanta	30	20	.600	6 1/2
Washington	11	37	.229	24 1/2
Charlotte	7	39	.152	27 1/2

Central Division

x-Chicago	40	10	.800	—
Indiana	28	19	.596	10 1/2
Milwaukee	22	26	.458	17
Cleveland	17	29	.370	21
Detroit	16	32	.333	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	33	14	.702	—
Dallas	28	22	.560	6 1/2
Memphis	26	21	.553	7
Houston	26	23	.531	8
New Orleans	12	36	.250	21 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	37	12	.755	—
Utah	26	23	.531	11
Denver	26	23	.531	11
Minnesota	24	26	.480	13 1/2
Portland	23	26	.469	14

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	30	19	.612	—
L.A. Clippers	27	21	.563	2 1/2
Phoenix	25	24	.510	5
Golden State	20	27	.426	9
Sacramento	17	31	.354	12 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot

Yesterday's Games

Phoenix	108	Cleveland	83
Minnesota	117	Denver	100
Atlanta			

Swim Leg of Xterra Saipan

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Triathletes wait for the start of the 1.5-kilometer swim leg of the 2012 Xterra Saipan Championship in the waters off Micro Beach.



A photographer takes shots of swimmers heading to the waters off Micro Beach.



Swimmers check the way to the second lap of the swim leg.



Swimmers plunge into the waters off Micro Beach.



Renata Bucher, third from left, and three other swimmers head out of the water.



Saipan spectators cheer for Mieko Carey (10) who is heading back to the water for the second and last lap of the swim leg.



U.S. pro Branden Rakita runs out of the water for the second lap of the swim race.



Saipan's Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel heads to the swim-bike transition area after completing one lap of the swim leg.



Olivier Marceau heads back to the water.



France's Cedric Lassonde runs along the shore to head back to the water for the last lap of the swim race.

TSL SPORTS
COMPLEX

Activity Schedule for March 27, 2012

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Morning practices
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM: Evening practices

There are no scheduled games.

NMBA NORTHERN MARIANAS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Gillette MULTIPURPOSE GYMNASIUM

There are no scheduled games.

SAIPAN SOCCER SCHOOL



**Taylor's 22 lead
KU to win
over Carolina**

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Tiger gets
back to what
he does best**

PAGE 25



28 TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

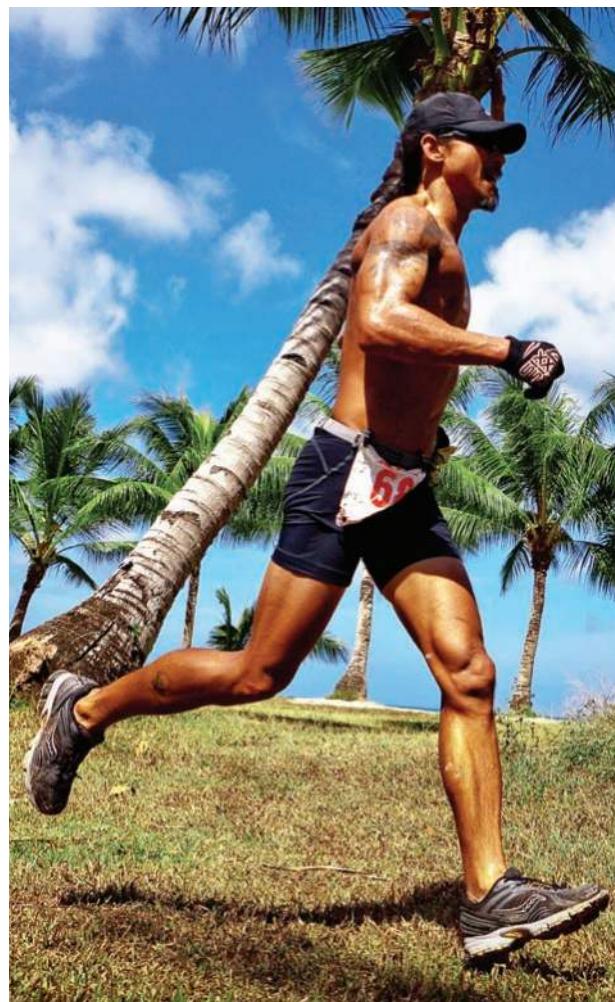
Morris, Tenorio triumph in Xterra Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lewie Tenorio and Brian Morris made the host proud as they reigned supreme in their respective age groups in last Saturday's 2012 Xterra Saipan Championship.

**Xterra
Saipan** Morris was the first Saipan finisher in the men's division and also ruled the 30 to 34 age group, while Tenorio topped the 40 to 44 category.

The 32-year-old Morris clocked in at 3:17:22 in the 1.5-kilometer swim, 32-km bike, and 12-km run race to beat five off-island triathletes and one fellow Saipan bet in his age group. His time was good for No. 15 overall out of 56 championship course finishers and was more than three minutes faster than runner-up Theo Goquely of



Lewie Tenorio, left, runs along Micro Beach, while Brian Morris heads up to Wireless during last Saturday's 2012 Xterra Saipan Championship.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/ROSELYN B. MONROYO

the U.S. (3:20:58). Morris split times were 21:55 in the swim (22nd overall), 1:46:53 in the bike (13th), and 1:06:59 (18th).

"I had a good race, crash free, and I am happy with my time. It's nice to race with those pros, they were so fast," said Morris, who joined the last two Enticers to prepare for Xterra and will be racing again this weekend, but will only do the swim leg in Tagaman.

Joining Morris in the Top 6 were Guam's Gabriel Lombard (3:35:40), Americans Jeffrey Phillips (3:47:02) and Mike Waring (3:56:12), Guam's Michael Stewart (4:10:19), and Saipan's Travis Spaeth (4:12:27).

In the men's 40 to 44, Tenorio had a close win, ahead by only one minute and three seconds against Japan's Nobuhiro Koizumi. Tenorio timed in at 3:34:40 (23rd overall), while Koizumi posted 3:35:43. Rounding out the Top 5 were Guam's Mark Cruz (4:08:53) and Japan's Osamu Sawahata (4:24:43) and Atsushi Ohkawa (4:36:09).

"It was fun riding the course

**See MORRIS on
Page 26**

Saipan son helps WWU win first-ever NCAA II basketball title

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

**DLX
2012 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP** Richard Woodworth, son of Saipan's Toni Terlaje, helped lead Western Washington University to the school's very first NCAA Division II basketball championship over Montevallo University's Falcons, 72-65, in Saturday's championship game held at the Bank of Kentucky Center in Highland Heights, KY.

Woodworth is a sophomore point guard for the WWU Vikings, who won the title with tough defense and a well-balanced scoring attack.

Woodworth scored 10 points
See SAIPAN on Page 26



Richard Woodworth, in white, dives for a loose ball during Saturday's NCAA Division II men's basketball championship match against Montevallo University held at the Bank of Kentucky Center in Highland Heights, KY.

Babauta wins Sta. Remedios Church golf tourney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

**DLX
2012 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP** Lorraine Babauta topped 24 other golfers to win the Sta. Remedios Church's 2012 fundraiser golf tournament held last Saturday at the Marianas Country Club.

Babauta posted a 44 on the front nine holes and finished

strong after the turn with a 41 on the back for a solid gross tally of 85 that adjusted into a net field low 68.

Four strokes back in second place came Larry Hocog who scratched a 54 on the front side and then a 47 on the back nine for a gross total of 101 that worked into a 72 net count.

Ed Manibusan settled for third place, despite turning in the low-

est gross score of the day.

Manibusan started out his round with a 39 on the first nine holes and pulled into the clubhouse with a 38 for an impressive raw score of 77, but his minuscule 2.4 handicap came up short on Saturday.

The Top 3 place finishers received trophies and modest cash prizes.

See BABAUTA on Page 26



Babauta

Crystal Pure, Mobil secure playoff seats

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Crystal Pure and Mobil clinched playoff berths in the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity Basketball Invitational Friendship League after prevailing over separate

**DLX
2012 BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP** foos last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Mobil slipped past SCS Heavy Equipment Rental in the first game, 85-74, to improve to a

See CRYSTAL on Page 26

